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NEW REGULATIONS ON MARKETING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16 Nov 82 p 7

[Article: "Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables: New Regulations"]

[Text] The new regulations concerning the marketing and control of fruits and vegetables will enter into effect at the beginning of 1983. The application of these regulations is in the context of a greater and more realistic control by state organizations of the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables. In the recent past the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables were affected by instability, seriously harming the purchasing power of consumers.

The decision to institute a new system for the marketing of fruits and vegetables follows the work of the Third Session of the Party Central Committee, held in May 1980, one of whose decisions had emphasized "the need to recast this system in order to adapt it to the present situation and to prepare it for the progressive evolution toward full state control, once the human and material resources are available."

With a view toward improving the marketing of fruits and vegetables, in the interest of producers and consumers, the Ministry of Agriculture decided to apply the following, complementary measures:

--Clarification of the role and stimulation of the management of the public distribution organizations which must make up lost ground and in particular increase their percentage in the collection and distribution of domestic production of fruits and vegetables.

--Organization of the sale by contract of the production of the socialist agricultural sector to public distribution organizations.

--Effective regulation of the wholesale market by public distribution organizations.

--Progressive organization of the collectors and distributors of fruits and vegetables.

--Improvement of the organization of retail distribution.

--Progressive application of a rational pricing system and of price control.

These lines of policy were approved on the basis of the recommendations of the four seminars held for the wholesale and retail organizations concerned during the first 6 months of 1981, the recommendations made by the provincial governors [wali] and the UNPA [National Union of Algerian Farmers], as well as the proposals contained in the report prepared by an inter-ministerial committee composed of the MAVA [Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform] and the Ministry of Commerce.

As far as the organization of the marketing of fruits and vegetables is concerned, one of the principles on which the recasting of the system has been based concerns the state's taking charge of the regulation of the market as far as strategic commodities are concerned, on the basis of contracts with the producers.

In terms of the new system the function of regulation of the fruit and vegetable market, particularly of products which are considered strategic (potatoes, onions, garlic, and citrus fruits), will be turned over to the OFLA [Algerian Fruit and Vegetable Office]. This organization is charged with establishing and managing security stocks of these items, making it possible to ensure the equilibrium of the market, and to apply a policy on contracts, both for its supplies from producers in the socialist sector and for its assignment of distribution to wholesale and retail organizations in the socialist sector.

At the provincial level COFEL [Fruit and Vegetable Cooperative] for its part has the task of organizing and managing the wholesale markets to be established in each province. Furthermore, this organization has been charged with providing assistance to the producers and to organize the collectors and distributors of fruits and vegetables at the wholesale market level. COFEL will also have the task of checking the quality of the products and ensuring respect for proper and healthy commercial practices in the markets.

The wholesale markets established under the new marketing policy will be centers where commercial transactions involving fruits and vegetables take place regularly.

The wholesale trade in fruits and vegetables will be required to take place within the marketplace, lacking which the transaction will be in violation of the law.

In applying the Central Committee resolutions producer cooperatives can be established under the auspices of the UNPA to handle the marketing of fruits and vegetables in the wholesale market.

The number and the location of these markets will be determined by the provincial governor, in accordance with the needs and specific conditions affecting the province.

The control of the new fruits and vegetables marketing system involves the organization of the function of collection and distribution carried out by a businessman who must be a fruit and vegetable merchant operating at the marketing stage.

The role of collector and distributor is performed by individual entities meeting the required conditions of character who have the appropriate means of transportation in particular.

In order to perform his functions the collector and distributor moreover will be required to maintain a trade ledger. He has authority to move throughout all the provinces in order to check on the market and to make his purchases.

The activity of the collector and distributor will be subject to the possession of a pass issued by the provincial directorate of agriculture. The collector and distributor will also be required to have in his possession a journal summarizing all of the transactions he has performed.

Private collectors are required to market products collected exclusively in the regulated wholesale markets. They will have complete freedom to sell their products. Sales will be accompanied by a bill of lading given by the seller to the buyer, with a copy for COFEL or with a copy issued by COFEL.

The new system for the marketing of fruits and vegetables gives a preponderant place to the retail merchants' organization whose activity is also subject to listing in the registrar's office.

Under the auspices of the party and of the APC [People's Communal Assembly] retail merchants can establish purchasing cooperatives to benefit from assistance from the government. Retail merchants regularly carrying on their activity and having a means of transportation have full freedom to obtain supplies from any fruit and vegetable market.

In other areas, such as the quality of service and commercial practices, the government circular on the organization of the marketing and on the control of fruits and vegetables emphasizes that hygiene in the retail markets will be the responsibility of the APC. In wholesale markets such responsibility will be handled by COFEL, which will also handle the management of these markets.

Resales between merchants in a given market are strictly prohibited.

Products offered for sale to consumers must be properly washed. The sale of products containing too much waste material, such as leaves, stems, and roots which cannot be eaten, and placing attractive items on top of a basket to conceal inferior items beneath them are also prohibited. Furthermore, the retailer is required to display the purchase prices and the prices of sale to the consumer.

However, all of these provisions are conditioned on the provision of the human and material means making it possible to establish regional courts which will be valuable instruments for the preservation of the interests of producers and consumers.

Among the measures scheduled to be introduced in the near future is the fixing of schedules on the costs of transport and stocking, the fixing of wholesale and retail price margins, and the fixing of prices to the consumers of so-called strategic products.

The application of all of the provisions of the circular by all appearances will remain strongly dependent on the establishment of efficient and effective controls at all levels. The security services and local government agents are responsible for this and have legal authority to take action against speculative practices which have seriously affected the purchasing power of the people.

5170

CSO: 4519/71

DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES MILITARY SUPPLY, PROVISION STRATEGY

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 82 p 6

/Article by al-Sayyid al-Babli: "Abu Ghazalah at the Strategy Symposium: 95 Percent of the Armed Forces' Services Will Be Met Internally"/

/Text/ Marshal 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has declared that the armed forces, in the light of peacetime conditions, are now seeking to alleviate citizens' sufferings by entering into new production sectors to achieve self-sufficiency. He said that they have managed to achieve their requirements through self-sufficiency in food and to become 95 percent self-reliant.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah was speaking at the inauguration of the armed forces' strategic symposium on interaction between the armed forces and the political, economic and cultural sectors of the government in the context of peacetime conditions with the goal of bringing about security and welfare.

The Opening of Automated Bakeries

He said that the first group of automated bakeries produced by the armed forces will be opened today to provide the people with integrated activities.

He added that the armed forces were constantly developing their capability in order to act as a deterrent force whose objective was to deter aggression.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah declared in his research which was to be concluded today that the symposium would concentrate on the importance of having an exchange of expertise between the armed forces and government sectors. The armed forces are rich in people who have doctorates and specialists and the resources and massive expertise which enable them to make a great contribution.

By engaging in this work, it is not departing from its true role, which is to defend Egypt.

He added that there is a firm bond between political and military activity and that unless military men have a political understanding of the government's higher objectives, they will not be able to perform their tasks competently.

He stated that the strategy symposium would concentrate on studying the means for developing the armed forces.

In attendance at the inauguration of the symposium, which will last 2 days, were a number of ministers, armed forces commanders and specialists who are contributing their research to the symposium.

Military Men and Politics

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, gave a research paper on the interrelationship between political activity and the armed forces in which he described the patterns of interaction between the political authorities and the military institution, stating that every society has a pattern for this relationship which differs in accordance with its political experience and the circumstances it has gone through and that one could not come up with a general system that could be said to be the best means or the best system for relationships between the political authorities and the military institution.

He said that the armed forces' tasks, especially in peacetime, may be summarized as protecting political stability and asserting national homogeneity and integration and political mobilization.

Dr Butrus Ghali reviewed the nature of the relations between the political authorities and the military institution, among the most prominent of which are to subject the armed forces to the political authorities, and to have the minister of defense be a civilian personality, and secondly to subject the armed forces to the ruling party, thirdly to subject the civilian authorities to the armed forces, and fourth to divide authority up between the armed forces and the civilian authorities.

He stated that one could not choose the best of these forms, since the circumstances of each country were different, in terms of preference to domestic security over foreign security, the phenomenon of international terror, the wars of liberation which a number of countries have waged, and instability.

Discussions took place between the members and Dr Butrus Ghali on the nature of relations between the military institution and political authorities and the best means for achieving constant interaction between the two of them.

War Staff Maj Gen Ahmad Isma'il Fakhr, director of the Defense College, gave a research paper on the armed forces in the framework of the government's comprehensive force calculations.

War Staff Maj Gen Muhammad al-Tantawi, the director of the Command and Staff College, also gave a research paper on the development and construction of the armed forces in peacetime.

Recommendations Today

The symposium will continue today, hearing research works by Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, the minister of economy, War Staff Maj Gen Hamid al-Sayyid, head of the Financial

Affairs Authority, Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information, Sa'id Yasin, director of the Center for Political and Strategic Research of AL-AHRAM, War Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Jamal-al-Din, director of the Morale Affairs Department, and War Staff Maj Gen Isma'il Shawqi, director of the Electronic War Department.

The symposium's recommendations will be issued today.

11887

CSO: 4504/103

INVESTMENT PROJECTS DETAILED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Oct 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] Dr Wajih Shandi, minister of investment and international cooperation, has announced that the volume of investments in the public and private sectors reached 6 billion pounds for the first time this year. He said that deposits by Egyptians in Egyptian banks amounted to \$5 billion.

He added that a decision has been made to exempt new national industrial projects from taxes for a period of 5 years and to exempt agricultural projects from taxes for a period ranging from 5 to 7 years.

During a meeting yesterday with labor leadership in a training session of the National Studies Center of the Nationalist Party, the minister said that it has been decided to give priority to open-door production projects and investment in the agricultural and industrial sectors. It has also been decided to establish new training centers to provide trained manpower by means of foreign aid within the framework of a plan for continued expansion in training programs.

The investment minister also announced that the loans currently being obtained by Egypt will be channeled primarily to production projects. He said that Egypt has the largest reserves of manpower in the Middle East--totaling some 12 million individuals--and that development in the area states has taken place with the help of Egyptian labor. He said that around 400,000 individuals enter the labor market each year and we need 6 billion pounds as investments to provide productive work opportunities for these workers.

He stated that the development of the public sector, which is currently under study, will help strengthen investment and create new employment opportunities and that public sector investments range from 12 to 20 billion pounds. He said that the participation of Arab and foreign capital in the various projects will take place within the framework of the plan to achieve the desired economic benefits.

Minister of manpower Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad announced that the Labor University will be opened next May and will be the first university at the Arab and African level. He said that studies in the university will initially take place in two colleges.

He said that the establishment of group cooperatives at the workplaces will be expanded in order to provide subsidized products to the workers.

He added that the final details pertaining to the establishment of the Labor Bank are currently being completed. This bank will undertake the implementation of a number of projects in the fields of food security, housing, and agriculture as well as organizing intensive training programs for workers.

He said that the Federation of Workers will begin discussing the public sector development project next week.

8591

CSO: 4504/39

OBJECTIONS TO CAIRO SEWER PROJECT REBUTTED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Oct 82 p 9

[Text] The economic section published a report concerning "the need to reconsider the water and sanitary drainage projects prior to the start of implementation." This report included the observations of the former vice chairman of the board of the State Organization for Sewers and Sanitary Drainage. We would now like to publish the following explanation. The section has received the following comment from Engineer 'Atallah Safwat, the head of the implementational organization of the Sanitary Drainage Facility:

In 1977 the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction contracted with two of the largest British firms--Taylor and (Benett and Company)--which won the international bidding competition in cooperation with an Egyptian firm. The contract calls for the preparation of a comprehensive study of the sewers of greater Cairo and the formulation of a general plan through the year 2000. The British and Egyptian firms prepared the study in cooperation with experts from the State Organization for Sewers and Sanitary Drainage and presented the general plan to the ministry after 12 months of thorough studies. The plan was reviewed and authorized by the ministry, its Egyptian and foreign consultants, and the concerned organizations.

The necessary funding to begin implementation of the project was provided through a grant of around \$100 million from the American government and a grant of around 50 million pounds sterling from the British government to fund the necessary foreign component of the project. When this was done, the State Organization for Sewers and Sanitary Drainage held another bidding competition among American and Egyptian firms for the preparation of a study for the **general** plan of the project based on the request of the American government. The American government requires American firms to confirm the soundness of projects that it helps to fund despite the fact that the greater Cairo sewer project had already been studied by one of the largest firms in the world and a firm with an international reputation. The competition was won by two American firms--(Kamp, Dresser and Macki) and Black and (Fitch)--and three Egyptian firms. The Egyptian firms are made up of a number of consulting engineers in various engineering specialties along with economics and costs experts, including deans and professors from Egyptian universities. The firms also include experts in sewers and sanitary drainage who formerly held

leadership positions in the State Organization for Sewers and Sanitary Drainage. The two British firms that won the first bidding competition and prepared the study and general plan established a consortium with the two American firms that won the second competition. This consortium became known as (AMERIC). The Egyptian experts established a consortium among themselves which became known as (EGYCON).

The goal of the second study was to review and develop the previous effort, to prepare a new main plan, to identify the projects that should be given immediate priority, and to set up a schedule for operations to improve and expand the Cairo sewer system so that it can accommodate--efficiently--the large and steadily growing volume of sewage through the year 2000 and beyond.

The consortium of American, British, and Egyptian consultants began its work in December 1979. It worked with the State Organization for Sewers and Sanitary Drainage to investigate the causes of repeated overflowing of the sewers at more than 200 locations in the city. It prepared detailed studies on each pumping station and each purification station. The consortium also submitted to the organization detailed reports that included proposals for improving the sewer system in most areas in which overflows have occurred. The organization authorized the new general plan for the project, which made some minor changes to the general plan drawn up by the two British firms.

The concept of building a main tunnel was not the only solution studied by the consortium of consultants. Rather, it was one of many solutions most of which were ruled out because of exorbitant costs or difficulty of implementation, such as the difficulty of stopping traffic or digging up the streets in a way that would add new problems to those Cairo already has.

Secondly, the former vice chairman raised objections to the diameter of the tunnel and proposed that it be decreased. My reply to this point is that the consulting firms based their recommendation on population estimates from the State Organization for Development Planning of Greater Cairo published in 1978 and on estimates from the Greater Cairo Water Utility which were made by the Egyptian and American experts who prepared the general plan for Cairo water projects through 2000. Moreover, the consortium of consultants did not rely solely on these estimates and studies but conducted additional studies using its own experts, not to mention field studies in most Greater Cairo neighborhoods. It should also be kept in mind that such estimates are not exact but allow for increases or declines according to what the projections for the next quarter century indicate.

Thirdly, the former vice chairman stated that the Nile River can supply Cairo with no more than 5 million cubic meters of drinking water per day. This needs no comment, especially since the Greater Cairo Water Utility has estimated through its American experts and consultants that the average water demand in the city of Greater Cairo will be approximately 6.6 million cubic meters by the year 2000. However, the design flow of the Greater Cairo sewer project, which is estimated at around 5.3 million cubic meters per day, takes into account several different factors, including the leakage of water into piping networks because of the rising water table as well as runoff from the

industrial areas. This increase is not counted in calculating the quantities of water needed for personal consumption, which the project estimates at 380 liters per day per person on the average including the aforementioned factors. We do not believe that the former deputy chief included these factors in his analysis.

Fourthly, the vice chairman stated that the report of the consulting firms did not mention means of maintaining the tunnel. He failed to note that the tunnel design calls for all main entrances to be furnished with a network of tunnels with sand containment compartments to keep material that leaks into the system from getting into the tunnels. In addition, the design allows for the fact that the water in the tunnel will be flowing with sufficient speed to prevent settling.

Fifthly, the vice chairman confirmed the fact that the concept of tunnels is a suitable concept to reduce the number of pumping stations distributed throughout Cairo, which currently number over 150. However, he then added that he rejected this concept because of the difficulty of implementing it and its high cost of construction. He did not offer any alternative, however, because there is no better alternative than tunnels from the standpoint of either cost or feasibility of implementation, as I stated earlier.

Sixthly, the vice chairman objected to the fact that the archeological areas will be in the way of the proposed tunnel. The consortium of consultants was not unaware of this fact. It conducted detailed studies on this matter and these studies were presented to the agencies responsible for antiquities, which approved the project after reviewing the studies completely.

Seventhly, the vice chairman pointed to the opposition of the director of the irrigation sector of the governorates of Cairo and Giza which was based on the claim that irrigation drainage canals will not accommodate the sewer water that will be channeled into them in the future. The fact is that most of the sewer water currently flows through these canals without complete purification. The project aims at purifying this water completely so that the greater part of it can be used for land reclamation. This was actually agreed on with the State Organization for Land Reclamation. After being completely purified, the remainder of this water will then flow through these canals up to the limit of their capacity according to the opinion of the Ministry of Irrigation.

Eighthly, the vice chairman objected to what he described as a single huge main pumping station in al-Amiriyah, stating that any disturbance at this single station would lead to severe problems, not to mention the effects of a power outage. He failed to note that the project calls for the construction of two pumping stations in al-Amiriyah in two phases to receive water from the main tunnel.

The former vice chairman's objection to constructing only one main deep pumping station in the first phase of the project ignores the fact that this station will be composed of several units some of which will be kept in a reserve status in case any of the other units experiences a breakdown. In addition, the Halzuniyah pumping station will receive water from the second and third complexes and the factories complex so that these stations can pump this water to main complexes in an easterly direction toward the proposed purification

operation in al-Jabal al-Asfar. Moreover, other stations in al-Amiriyah will be maintained in working condition. With regard to the possibility of a power outage at the station, the former vice chairman failed to recognize that the project calls for this station to be supplied with two different sources of electric power that will operate automatically if power to either one of them is interrupted. In addition, the project calls for the construction of an electric generating station especially for the pumping station that will become operational within minutes if both the original sources lose power at the same time.

The general plan for the project includes the following projects in the first phase:

1. Improvement of drainage to eliminate overflows in Greater Cairo.
2. Replacement and overhaul of the small pumping stations and strengthening of discharge pipes.
3. Replacement and overhauling of the large pumping stations.
4. Projects on the eastern side of the Nile including the main and secondary tunnels, the pumping stations, and the proposed purification operation in al-Jabal al-Asfar.
5. Projects on the western side of the Nile including the provision of new networks for the excluded areas, the construction of complexes and pumping stations, and the purification operation in Abu Rawwash.

The estimated cost of the Greater Cairo sewer project at January 1982 prices was 1,395,000,000 pounds. Of this amount, 741 million pounds was allocated in the first five-year plan including 320 million pounds in foreign currencies which were actually arranged through international grants and loans. There remains 554 million pounds which must be provided for within the plan for the second phase in the subsequent plan.

Due to the importance of this project, the minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation felt that it should be placed under the authority of the Ministry of Reconstruction after an independent organization had been set up to give it the attention it deserves as a national project.

The project is subject to the oversight and monitoring of a high-level committee. It can be said that the general Cairo sewers project has been the object of study and planning of the highest scientific and international standard by firms with specialized experience. Allowance has been made for this project to be restudied and reevaluated. I would like to assure the masses of Greater Cairo that clear and steady progress will be seen over the next two years in the various parts of the city of Cairo as a result of the implementation of the drainage improvement projects and the overhaul of worn-out equipment in the utility's stations and the replacement of this equipment with new and more advanced equipment. This will allow the first phase of the general project to be completed within 5 years, will provide a basic solution to Cairo's sewer problem, and should completely eliminate overflows.

WESTERN DESERT RECLAMATION PROJECT REVIEWED

Iron Mine Farming Project

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Dec 82 p 9

/Article by Husayn Shahbun/

/Text/ An experiment which is unique for its kind is being carried out on Egyptian territory. The beginning has occurred there, in the heart of the Western Desert, far away from cities, luxuries, bright lights and publicity--indeed, most truthfully, far away from all signs of life, even backward life. The area in which the experiment began is approximately 350 kilometers from the city of Giza and 50 kilometers from the closest developed area, in the al-Bahriyah oases. It lies in the heart of the desert, in the midst of the dunes and the sands, where there is no life, no trace of the verdure of life, and no sign of development.

In the course of a mere 4 years, the area has been transformed into an important center for industrial production and agricultural production as well. The important thing is that it has become the central point for the dissemination of culture and civilization for the people of the desert, and has also opened up horizons for projects to exploit the tourist aspects of this region, which could become a most important area of tourist attraction if its tourist resources were properly exploited.

The Economics Page spent a number of days there with the goal of portraying the dimensions of this pioneering experiment in invading the desert and in industrial and agricultural development. To make a proper start, let us embark on the story from its beginning:

Years ago, the geologist 'Abduh Basyuni, who was working in the Desert Development Authority in the al-Bahriyah Oases area, observed that the sand and soil in an area about 50 kilometers from al-Bawiti, the capital, was of a different color from that of the adjacent areas, and, on the basis of his expertise, assumed that one could anticipate the presence of iron ore there. The Aswan mine was the main source of iron in Egypt starting in 1955. The man started investigating the area in person. Naturally he used the resources available, which were in the authority's possession, and started declaring his hypothesis that there was iron ore in that area. The reactions to the man were universally angry, because exploring for iron was not his responsibility! He was accused of making unauthorized use of the

authority's property, an investigation was made on him, and he came up against vexations he had never encountered before, with the result that he had to leave the area and the authority itself!

These efforts, for which he was beset by the curse of bureaucracy and red tape, were the point of departure for the discovery and exploitation of the ore in the region. Experts from the Iron and Steel Company packed up the thread, and research and studies were undertaken which confirmed the validity of the man's theory that there was iron in commercial quantities, greater than those in the Aswan mines.

As Eng Diya'-al-Din al-Tantawi, chairman of the Iron and Steel Company, says, the exploitation of this ore has realized greater economies and achieved more abundant revenues, since it is distinguished by the fact that the ratio of iron there is as high as 53.6 percent, as compared with just 43 percent in the case of the iron in Aswan, and the ratio of silica is as low as a mere 9 to 18 percent, with from 1 to 2 percent phosphorus. These are considered undesirable impurities. It takes 550 kilograms of coal coke to produce a ton of iron, as compared with 1,200 kilograms in the case of the iron ore in Aswan. The confirmed ore reserves in the area of the oases comes to 128 million tons, covering an area of 6 square kilometers, as compared with 14 million tons covering an area of 600 square kilometers in Aswan. Annual production at maximum capacity comes to 3.3 million tons, or a cost of just 2 pounds per ton, and the transportation distance to the factories is 330 kilometers, as compared with a maximum capacity of half a million tons at a cost of 8.6 pounds per ton and a transportation distance of 850 kilometers in Aswan.

The Iron and Steel Company has started to exploit the al-Bahriyah oasis mines. This has required the construction of a new road branching off from the Giza-al-Fayyum road to the mines. A residential community was built on an area of 150 feddans accommodating 1,000 workers, technicians, and administrators, and it contains such basic facilities as a hospital, a bakery, a police station, a power line from the electric station in the High Dam, places of worship and a recreation club for workers.

Eng Diya' al-Tantawi added, "The basic problem facing the people there over the years was embodied in a total dependence on the valley for every scrap of bread, piece of meat, glass of milk or item of fruit or vegetable with which to feed the people working in the area, except for water, since four wells have been drilled and water is flowing from them in abundant amounts. The table of annual consumption of water has not been affected by more than a millimeter per year, as has been proved in actual practice."

The question is, will this situation continue throughout the years of production in the mines, which is predicted to go on no less than 80 years, regardless of any expansions or new discoveries which might radically extend the life of the mine? Then, what will happen after that? Will the area be abandoned as desolate desert, which it once was, while the massive investments made in it are lost? It is true that the revenue generated from it over these years should be considered economically beneficial, coming to several times costs, but why?

In the face of these questions, reclamation and cultivation of land becomes the only solution, and there is no other solution.

Eng 'Adil 'Abd-al-Karim, chairman of the mine and quarries sectors and vice president of the company, who at the beginning helped with the rapid execution of the project, said, "The Swedish zoologist Dr Fifi Takholm lived in Egypt for more than 50 years as a professor in the Faculty of Science at Cairo, lived close to the Western Desert, and classified about 250 desert land plants. She willed her inheritance to the area. After she died in 1978, the Medical Aid Authority of the government of Sweden and the Society of Devotees of Dr Fifi Takholm in Sweden offered us \$50,000 to forest the area, and 61,000 casuarinas and eucalyptuses were planted as windbreaks starting in 1980. At that time Eng Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal, minister of industry and then chairman of the company, signed a contract with the Swedish government. At that time we had actually begun our efforts and just 6 feddans were planted in 1978. However, after forestation began, we sought to set up a model farm covering an area of 100 feddans. The amazing thing is that the results of the first plantings have given average yields which exceeded the averages for crops in the /Nile/ Valley, and this has had a great impact on us. A nursery was set up for decorative plants and the production of fruit tree seedlings, along with a rabbit farm whose production we sell to workers at cost and another for livestock production which now contains 50 head of high-quality cattle to produce meat."

The conversation will continue.

Low Farming Costs Reviewed

Cairo AL-AHEAM in Arabic 8 Dec 82 p 9

/Article by Husayn Shahbun/

/Text/ There is no doubt that the Iron and Steel Company farm project in the al-Bahriyah oasis mine area is a model which must be studied closely. In spite of its success, the experiment has not relied on massive resources, financing or international expertise which could be applied elsewhere. Moreover, it could be considered the nucleus of other projects that will be integrated with it, through expansion in or around it or through supplementary projects such as one to use the clay produced from the production of iron ore in manufacturing argillaceous brick at a rate of at least 10 million bricks a year. This would require only a plant, some additional water wells and the residential community. This is considered to be the real beginning of the invasion of the desert and the integration of industry and agriculture in service of the goals of comprehensive development.

What is new in this experiment is the fact that the costs of reclaiming and initially planting a single feddan do not exceed 600 pounds. If payment of the costs of using the technical equipment which the company owns, which was used for reclamation, is added to that, the costs of reclaiming and newly planting each feddan will come to no more than 1,000 pounds, which is a remarkable rate for the heart of the Western Desert. Let us complete the conversation on the dimensions of this unique experiment.

The question was, Why doesn't the mine area produce the food it needs? The 6 feddans that were planted in 1978 yielded results which confirmed that expansion that expansion would probably be a success, and the targeted expansion then became

100 feddans, which would constitute a model fruit, vegetable and meat production farm. Although there were no specialists, except for the agricultural engineer 'Abdallah al-Hamzah, who was by chance working in the chemical analysis sections, and has been aided by two agricultural school graduates as laboratory assistants, the experiment was undertaken, the 100 feddans were levelled and readied for farming, and a nursery was established on it to produce fruit tree seedlings and ornamental plants, along with a model rabbit farm using exceptional high-yield strains, containing about 15 females and seven males producing more than 150 couples a year which are sold to workers at cost so that they may raise them at home. In addition, a farm was established for livestock production which now has 50 animals. Calves are fattened to produce meat and raise cows for milk production.

Eng Mahmud al-Harras, vice chairman of the mine sectors, who is living in the area, says "The fruit and vegetable plantings which have been carried out over an area of 80 feddans so far, on top of the nursery and livestock production farms, have attained amazing results. A calculation of the general average per feddan, according to the areas which have been planted, gives excellent indications; it is possible that tomato production may reach 9.5 tons per feddan, as compared with 7 tons in the valley, the production of eggplant 13 tons, and that of zucchini 8 tons. It is expected that watermelon productivity will exceed 15 tons per feddan, going by the limited areas that have been farmed. We have concentrated on cultivating al-Hijazi bersim in order to improve soil characteristics, and that has yielded an extremely good crop. In addition, the experiment of planting Sudanese kirkadih was carried out for the first time this year, and the initial results were better than excellent. Therefore, we will experiment with planting traditional crops that have a high cash value alongside vegetable and fruit crops. In addition, grapes were grown and seedlings were produced locally, and their results offer hope for great success."

The agricultural engineer 'Abdallah al-Hamzah says "There are some problems, for instance technical labor, which is not available; it is not possible for mine workers to devote themselves full time to farming. The project management has sought the aid of the universities to help it solve some technical problems, such as the falling-off of apricot buds because of the khamsin winds, and the relatively poor citrus crop. The company has allocated a parcel of land to Dr Mahmud Hashim al-Barquqi, dean of agriculture at al-Azhar, so that he may conduct experiments on it. Dr al-Barquqi has chosen two sites for research for two masters' degrees on some plants that can be of high quality for two researchers in the faculty, and it is providing scientific aid for the farm."

Eng Mahmud al-Harras says, "The fact that the experiment has succeeded in this unexpected manner has led one to think of establishing an additional model farm in the al-Harah area, about 20 kilometers from the area of the mines, to function as an area in which to settle iron mine workers. The Food and Agricultural Organization has offered a \$250,000 grant as a nucleus for the project, in which workers will be settled down upon retiring and will be given housing and 5-feddan plots of land that are suitable for farming. Eng Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal, the minister of industry, has signed the contract for the grant. Consensus has been reached that the first activity will be devoted to expanding the existing farm to an area of 130 feddans. Basic studies are now underway on the settlement project, which is aimed at developing the society by using local mineral and agricultural resources, introducing new activities such as vegetable and fruit production, rural and environmental

industries, and improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the oases through the social and village activities of the neighboring villages. The farm will have an area of approximately 200 feddans and that will lead to the settlement of workers and will keep them from migrating back to the valley with their families when they reach retirement age."

Muhammad Sabri al-Baja, director of project public relations, says "The success of the farm has prompted the company to give workers the right to farm vacant areas in front of their homes, and the company is taking charge of transporting the clay produced from the mining of the ore to the homes of workers who request it in order to improve the characteristics of the soil. The workers have succeeded in farming various crops; even the cultivation of sugar cane, alongside the fruit and vegetables, has been a success, and this has helped reduce the volumes of fruit and vegetables brought in from Giza." With respect to the settlement project, Sabri al-Baja says, "Execution of the project will result in the desired settlement, since the existing labor represents people coming in from all governorates of Egypt. When they reach retirement age, they will go back to the valley with their families, whereas the government has the objective of creating and developing new societies. This led to the idea of establishing this model farm in the context of the project to settle workers. A study is now underway on the most appropriate formula for carrying this out, the appropriate time for deeding property to the workers, and the optimum means for making workers sense the value of the land that is deeded to them and toward whose development and exploitation they can work in an economic manner."

Eng Diya' al-Tantawi, chairman of the company, says "Eng Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal, the minister of industry, having been the former president of the company and a reason for the success of the idea of the farm, is concentrating on bringing the productivity of the farm up to self-sufficiency in the region, and indeed exporting surplus food to the factories in Hilwan, especially since the results of the farming underline the possibility of doing this."

Eng Adil 'Abd-al-Karim, vice president of the company and chairman of the mine sectors, adds, "A cooperative agricultural society is now being formed for the farm, and the development plan has the objective of establishing a station to produce poultry and eggs. In addition, the sanitary drainage plant project, and the use of the plant for irrigation, will help expand farming and increase production. The company also is aiming at establishing a modern fish farm, and detailed studies on this are now underway. However, the company needs the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, other bodies, universities and research centers to help analyze the soil and express advice on the appropriate crop composition. In addition, the ministry can also provide the necessary technical labor and agricultural engineers on a loan basis, along with some agricultural equipment." He prefers the small equipment that can be manufactured in the mines' shops to help solve the labor problem. The company will also welcome all agricultural science researchers from universities and research centers and will offer them every facility and aid to reside and carry out scientific and applied research, whose results will undoubtedly benefit the cause of production in the farm.

We have one question left, whose answer lies with Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of housing, reconstruction and new societies, who had previously visited

the region and expressed his intense amazement at the experiment: Why doesn't the ministry set up an argillaceous clay plant to make use of the millions of tons of clay that will be produced by mining the ore? Establishment of such a plant could be accompanied by a similar experiment and add new acreage to the agricultural land, as well as producing bricks which might help solve the problem of cropland erosion.

More important than all that, the presence of such agricultural projects and industries would undoubtedly help modernize the area and would bring about a tremendous forward cultural leap. For example, the Ministry of Industry, for instance, is intending to establish an institute to graduate industrial technicians. All the students in it will be from the oases. In addition, the schools which the Iron and Steel Company has set up in the area of the oases have given all the people in the oases a chance at an education.

11887

CSO: 4504/99

OPPOSITION PRESS DEMANDS INVESTIGATION OF FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Nov 82 p 10

/Article by 'Abd-al-Qadir Shuhayb: "The File on the Faith and Hope Society Must be Opened"/

/Text/ It is now time to open the file on the Faith and Hope Society. This society, since it is headed by the wife of former President Anwar al-Sadat, was accorded broad attention by all government agencies and organizations. Numerous facilities were offered it, many resources were put at its disposal, the efforts of former officials were mobilized to collect contributions for it both domestically and abroad, and indeed it was given an opportunity to acquire a portion of Egypt's foreign loans, on grounds that it was caring for the handicapped and the heroes of the October war.

Some people were persuaded to be silent about this society's financial behavior in recent years, because it was indeed looking after handicapped persons, although this justification was not convincing to many people.

The Faith and Hope Society was established in 1974, as its charter says, as a philanthropic society which sought to help people who had been disabled in Egypt as a result of accidents at work or in war or had been disabled by birth. The society has no connection to the government, but it is supposed to operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs like other philanthropic societies.

The Society's Funds?

Since it was established, it has been headed by Jihan Ra'uf, the wife of the former president. For this reason, every official and unofficial facility and aid has been provided to it. It managed to acquire an area of 200 feddans in the Madinat Nasr lands. A decree was recently issued by the local people's assembly of Cairo Governorate to add a further area of 6 feddans which had been set aside for the Umm Kalthoum Benevolent Home project. That matter prompted the founders of the Umm Kalthoum Home to file a case with the judiciary, in order to save the home's lands from Faith and Hope's grasp.

For 7 whole years, the Faith and Hope Society received many diverse contributions, both domestically and abroad. News was published about some of them in Egyptian

newspapers when they were made. Mrs. Jihan Ra'uf, the chairman of the society, made numerous tours of Arab countries (before relations with them were severed in the wake of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty), European countries, and the United States of America, expressly to collect donations for the Faith and Hope Society in cash and in kind. In fact, the society established a branch for itself in Washington by the name of the American Faith and Hope Society in November 1974, directly after its own establishment, with the goal of receiving donations in the form of money, assets and honors and immediately remitting to the parent society in Egypt. This branch, which was established in accordance with American law, includes a group of persons who volunteer on a personal basis. The society has also attempted to broaden its activities to include Arab and African countries as well.

Donations and Loans

One of the most important donations of money which the Faith and Hope Society received abroad was a sum of \$10 million paid in Egyptian currency out of the receipts of the American technical aid program allotted to Egypt.

One of the most important donations in kind was a fabricated siding plant which the government of West Germany offered as a gift to the society.

The society's management did not content itself with collecting donations in cash and kind and acquiring gifts and bequests domestically and abroad--indeed, it resorted to numerous other means to collect money, on the pretext of meeting expenditures for the various activities of the society.

The society participated in projects for making copies of ancient Pharaonic Egyptian antiquities and selling them abroad as those antiquities were being displayed abroad, in exchange for a share of the sales receipts, while the Egyptian Antiquities Authority, which supervises these antiquities, did not receive any compensation for the use of Egyptian antiquities in commercial projects.

The society also organized concerts for a number of international musical figures and obtained the revenues from these concerts.

In fact, the society also managed to obtain foreign loans, which were taken out of the foreign loans provided to Egypt in recent years. The most important of these was a French loan of 170 million French francs, and another, Belgian, loan for 100 million Belgian francs.

In addition to all that, the society has deeply involved itself in certain projects and activities to develop and increase its money. Among these is the limousine project, which the Egypt Tourist Company ran in the past, and in which the Nasir Bank, which manages it now, took part. Its revenues were allocated to expenditures of the Faith and Hope Society. In addition there is the society's spaghetti and pasta plant.

Complaints against the Management

In spite of all the funds the society has collected, it offers its services to only about 400 disabled persons, including just 124 military persons. Construction

of the Faith and Hope Hospital has not yet been completed either, although the contract to design the hospital was concluded in October 1975.

In fact, the strange thing is that the society relinquished an area of 20 feddans to the Schweppes Company, which Eng 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman established with the funds of the Engineers' Union.

Even the small number of disabled persons who have benefited from the services of the Faith and Hope Society complain of the poor care they received from the Society, especially after its management took action to evict some of them. In the wake of the assassination of President al-Sadat, these disabled persons presented numerous complaints to Egyptian officials in which they recorded their objection to the style of administration of the society and requested that Jihan Ra'uf be excused from the position of board chairman of the Society.

A Review Is Necessary

Therefore, it has become essential to carry out a comprehensive review of all the conditions in this society, which was established, and has been active, in special circumstances and has also enjoyed special facilities. This review must include an audit of this society's financial accounts and various activities, and that should be assigned to a special board of Central Accounting Agency auditors and experts.

Some bodies and ministries, such as the Investment Ministry, which recommended that the French and Belgian loans offered to the society be allocated to other projects, so that use may quickly be made of those, in spite of reservations by the Ministry of Social Affairs, have actually started to act to put a limit to their excessive supplies of facilities for this society, as has the Ministry of Finance, which is now assiduously engaged in preparing a new law regulating customs exemptions which will include the stipulation of rules on the exemption of philanthropic societies and will consolidate provisions for the exemption of all the societies so that exemptions will be restricted to the machinery, equipment, gifts, bequests and aid necessary for the society's activity, as received in its name, and disposition of these objects or transfer of their ownership will be forbidden unless customs duty is paid on them.

There is no doubt that this is all necessary in order that regulations on the activity of this society may be set out in advance; nonetheless, it is not enough. It will be necessary to make a comprehensive review, specifically a financial audit, of all its activities in past years, in order to make sure that no one has exploited his influence, sure we have been declaring that we are in opposition to the exploitation of influence in all areas!

11887

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BRIEFS

WATER IN NORTH SINAI--The water required for drinking and human and agricultural use has been made available in the liberated areas of North Sinai. Forty-two wells have been drilled in the coastal area from Rafah to al-Shaykh Zuwayd. Four tanks have been erected with capacities ranging from 1,200 to 3,000 cubic meters, and the pipelines required to supply the region have been set up. Dr 'Ali Abu Zayd, chief of the Sinai Redevelopment Agency, stated that 12 wells have been put into operation in the Sadut area, a 20-kilometer pipeline has been laid, and two 3,000-cubic-meter tanks have been constructed. In addition, three wells have been put in operation in Rafah, a 2-kilometer pipeline has been installed, and a 1,200-cubic meter tank has been erected with a volume sufficient to meet the needs of the town and surrounding area. He added that 10 wells have been drilled and put into operation in the al-Shaykh Zuwayd area, a 1-kilometer line has been installed and a tank has been built with a capacity of 1,200 cubic meters, which is adequate to provide the requirements of al-Shaykh Zuwayd and the villages around it. /Text/ /Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Dec 82 p 8/ 11887

CSO: 4504/103

NEW AGRICULTURE SEASON PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY

Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 20 Oct 82 p 4

[Article: "Vast Land Areas Covered with Forest Trees,; Large-Scale Preparations for Rainy Season"]

[Text] Sources at the general administration for forests and grazing lands in the general popular committee for agricultural reclamation and land development reported that all preparations for planting an area of 36,530 hectares with forest trees in various regions of the Jamahiriyah have been completed in preparation for the rainy season this year.

The sources added that the proper popular committees have been contacted to determine the areas which will be planted with forest trees. Forestation will be carried out over an area of 2000 hectares in the Tripoli area, 800 hectares in al-Zawiyah, 1300 hectares at al-Nuqat al-Khamas, 500 hectares in the Ghadamas area, 1750 hectares in the al-'Aziziyah area, 1800 hectares in Yafran, and 2650 hectares in the Gharyan area.

An area of 4600 hectares will be forested in Tarhunah, 2000 hectares in al-Khums, 2250 hectares in Zallitun, 850 hectares in the Suf al-Jin area, 2530 hectares in the Sirt area, 2500 hectares in Ajdabiyah, 2500 hectares in the al-Biyan al-Awwal area in Benghazi, 1850 hectares in the al-Fatih area, 1000 hectares in the Tubruq area, and 1300 hectares in the Jabal al-Akhdar area.

Sources of the general administration for forests and grazing lands in the general popular committee for agricultural reclamation and land development also reported that all of the agricultural equipment necessary for this season by way of vehicles, tractors, and other machines for digging in the various areas have been provided in preparation for the planting season for this year.

These sources said that, in light of the studies and preparations available to the popular committees on human and mechanical capabilities and the developmental programs in which the various popular sectors will participate, about 33,110,000 diverse forest seedlings will be planted in all parts of the Jamahiriyah.

STATUS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES EXAMINED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 263, 6 Dec 82 pp 22-24

[Article by Mustafa al-'Alawi: "Will the Socialist Union Participate in Morocco's New Government?"]

[Text] Public opinion in Morocco is becoming noticeably, more interested in the changes that are expected in the new cabinet. These changes were not required by any political circumstances or by a desire to correct matters. They became inevitable as the parliamentary term came close to its end and as concrete changes in the positions of several political forces in Morocco manifested themselves in events. These political forces include the United Opposition and the Istiqlal Party; they are the two basic political forces that have real influence on the masses.

According to bulletins, speeches and statements it is evident that internal problems in Morocco have now become secondary after all attention has been turned to the Middle East question. The role that Morocco has been playing in this regard has not yielded anything to the economic situation in Morocco. The alliance between Morocco and Saudi Arabia did not preclude an increase in the price of oil. Moroccan citizens pay the same price for gasoline that French or Belgian citizens do. The economic crisis that the world is suffering from, which is unremittingly and violently leaving an impression on the material world in Morocco, is forcing Moroccans to devote some time to think about [their country's] internal problems which are noticeably getting worse.

The countdown for the present session of parliament is to begin with the beginning of the coming year. Moroccans, whether they are parties or individuals, will have to think about how they will enter the scene of political action.

One of the first [parties] to think about that was the Socialist Union for Popular Forces. It was the Socialist Union that decided to provide the last parliamentary term with new political choices that were based on political participation rather than the boycott of the election. Union leaders acknowledged that this had been a political error that offered a big favor to those who were called enemies of democracy by (Abderrahman al-Yusufi), one of the leaders of the Socialist Union. In a statement delivered on the anniversary of the death of (Mehdi Benbarka), the spokesman for the Socialist Union went even further than had been expected and called upon members of the Socialist Union to turn 1983 into a year that would start the ball rolling.

It is certain that Socialist Union officials did not depart from their silence and did not return to their posts merely out of a desire for change. But informed individuals go beyond [the realm of] all possibilities and speak about serious negotiations that took place between two advisers close to King Hasan II and leaders of the Socialist Union for the purpose of including them in the plans that are expected to be outlined for Morocco in 1983.

The experiences of the past 2 years have shown that no political organization in Morocco can play the role of the opposition simply because it wishes to do so. As problems became worse and more numerous, all politicians joined the opposition. The newspapers of the Istiqlal Party do not let an opportunity go by without adding to the annals of the opposition proposals that [any] reader would think had been written by someone in the Socialist Union. Newspapers of the National Rally of Independents Party, the party that has a loosely knit majority, compete with the Istiqlal Party and demonstrate versatility in criticizing and belittling the government's work. This increases the enthusiasm of the new party, the party of Arsalane Jadidi, the National Democratic Party. Jadidi's newspaper, LE DEMOCRATE, criticizes the government's method, and his people forget that they are members of the government which they are criticizing. It is only Maati Bouabid who is bitter about this situation. Bouabid has found no organization to sympathize with him. He finds this to be an injustice, and he is considering removing this injustice by forming a new party.

Mitterand and the Expected Group

It would be an exercise in futility to say that Morocco has not been influenced by the socialist tide which has made inroads the area around Morocco and made that country feel there was a vacuum behind it. To the south Mauritania shows no sympathy for Morocco. Under present conditions Morocco's eastern neighbor, Algeria, is not expected to declare an alliance with Morocco. France, Morocco's partner in the economy, in trade, in culture and in the Moroccan experience is no longer concealing the pressures of its socialist regime from Morocco. And the socialist regime in Spain came into power so that socialist pressures on Morocco would achieve their ultimate results.

Coinciding with these circumstances is the fact that Morocco has a party that is politically allied to all the socialist regimes, especially those in France and in Spain. This is the Socialist Union of Popular Forces. If Morocco can impose its political positions, which are supported by integrated unity around the question of the Sahara, and if it can support this position, then the participation of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces in a future government will become a foregone conclusion.

President Francois Mitterand had asked that his visit to Morocco coincide with the date on which (Mehdi Benbarka) disappeared. [Mitterand] believed that his friend, Abdelrahim Bouabid would remain in jail till the end of September. This is the second reason why he chose the month of September [for his visit]. Although the visit had been set for October at the request of King Hasan II, it did not take place because all the conditions that would have surrounded that visit were inopportune. President Mitterand's agencies were not satisfied with the secret missions that Abdelrahim Bouabid had carried out in France. Also the French government could not easily accept the text of a joint French-Moroccan

communiqué renewing the bases of cooperation and understanding with Morocco unless there was something new to justify it-- unless at least the Moroccan socialist leader, Abdelrahim Bouabid were to be [named] Morocco's ambassador to Paris. Rumors indicate, however, that an important political figure from the Istiqlal Party will be assigned to this position.

When an official and a final decision was made, a bulletin issued by Paris and Rabat announced that the date of President Mitterand's visit to Morocco would be next January. A preliminary diplomatic concession was made by Morocco, and that is manifested in the bulletin that was issued by Morocco's ambassador to Paris. The ambassador denied that there was an official invitation to former president, Giscard d'Estaing to visit Morocco. Morocco thereby removed an obstacle that had thwarted the establishment of an understanding between Morocco and Mitterand. French socialists would not have endured the irritation which that obstacle would have caused: that is [the charge of] Morocco's collusion with and support for the party of France's former president. French socialists had accused Morocco of playing a major role in the [presidential] campaign that Giscard d'Estaing had waged against Mitterand.

Features of the Next Government

The economic program of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces is considered one of the solutions that is required to confront Morocco's economic crisis. The present government and its predecessor had embarked on a tax plan that smothered wealthy people who are now paying taxes that are rising at an alarming rate. Luxury foreign goods were kept out of Morocco, and the government promised [to effect] social measures to raise wages and to encourage native industries. These in fact are the broad lines of the Socialist Union's program. The rift between the government and the union in this regard is no longer huge. The other difference between them was over the fact that members of the Socialist Union refused to accept the new amendment to the new parliamentary term. They are now retracting [their opposition on that amendment] and accepting all the rules of the political game in Morocco. Morocco today has a long list of personalities who are acceptable to all political parties. This list begins with Counselor Ahmed Reda Guedira, who is opposed only by members of the Istiqlal Party; Counselor Abdelhadi Boutaleb, with whom all organizations agree to work; and economist Mohamed Kerim Lamrani. Thus, there is no longer any obstacle preventing the formation of a new government that would have everyone's sympathy.

It is not unlikely that a new ministry for national security will be established along with the present Ministry of the Interior, which will have to specialize in the affairs of elections and groups. This new ministry may be assigned to the present minister of justice, Mustapha Benlarbi Alaoui. Long practice has also brought to prominence a [politically] neutral and successful figure in the area of national government relations. This is Azeddine Guessous, the present minister of trade, whose present conditions may qualify him to become minister of finance. Also the early signs of the internal succession in the Istiqlal Party--particularly those signs, which are no longer a secret, between the faction of the present secretary general, M'Hamed Boucetta and that of the present minister, M'Hamed Douiri will make it possible to shear off parties that would have gone to the Istiqlal Party in the next government. Amidst these speculations the Moroccan public remains riveted to the surprises it has grown accustomed to from its

monarch, King Hasan II. A new law postponing the coming elections may be one of these surprises, particularly if the referendum on the Sahara becomes the foremost concern of the Moroccan public. Morocco is on the verge of achieving a final victory on the question of the Sahara. Morocco had entered [that war] with a cohesive national unity. It may enter the battle for economic reform, which it has to enter, with a cohesive national unity too.

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CSO: 4504/105

REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN OUED ZARGA CAMP

Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 5

[Text] Mr Salah Khalaf, a member of Fatah's Central Committee, stressed the "temporary" nature of the presence of several thousand Palestinian soldiers evacuated from Beirut in Tunisia. According to Wafa [expansion unknown], on a visit to the Palestinians at the Oued Zarga camp he said: "our presence in Tunisia is temporary, while we await the reorganization of our forces and their training to resume the struggle as close as possible to the borders of occupied Palestine." Mentioning the Palestinian resistance's armed struggle against the Israeli forces, he maintained: "No one can underestimate the Palestinian Fedayeen's resistance in Beirut and the success of their revolution on military and political levels."

Palestinian Soldiers

The some 1,100 Palestinian soldiers evacuated from Beirut who were welcomed as heroes by all of Tunisia on 28 August are virtually cloistered under heavy security at the Oued Zarga camp 70 kilometers from Tunis. The first few days, some were seen striding through the streets of Tunis like sailors on leave, recognizable due to their diamond-print headaddresses. However, since then one rarely passes a Palestinian minibus shuttling between the Oued Zarga camp where most of the contingent lives and Hotel Salma in Bordj Gedria in the Tunis suburbs where Yasser Arafat's staff resides.

In fact, although rumors are circulating briskly, specific information on the situation at Oued Zarga is difficult to obtain: the camp is guarded by several rings of different security forces and no journalist has been able to obtain permission to enter. In any case, it has been learned from various reliable sources that the Palestinian soldiers are subject to military discipline in the camp which is directed by Colonel Chakora. Despite this, according to the same sources they are having difficulty enduring the inactivity. Having practically no diversions other than sports during the day and television at night, the Palestinians at Oued Zarga are bored and their tensions sometimes find expression in brawls caused by political discussions or more trivial matters. Furthermore, the massacres at the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Shatila and especially the vivid images broadcast by Tunisian television deeply disturbed the Palestinian contingent. Soldiers suffered attacks of despair or hysteria in recognizing the alleys

where they lived, their family's home or what remained of it or even, it is maintained, the body of a relative. Their pain, combined with a feeling of complete powerlessness, has created an atmosphere of unrest in the camp which, according to informed sources, is sometimes expressed through political confrontations.

According to certain reliable information, a split would seem to have appeared among the soldiers between those who continue to approve of the PLO leadership's decision to evacuate Beirut and those who sometimes violently condemn the "abandonment of Palestinian families." Outside the camp, since some unrest marked by several small pro-Palestinian demonstrations has died down, there is no longer anything to remind the Tunisians of the presence of the Palestinian contingent. Television has toned down its pro-Palestinian militancy, the press is not passing along the contingent's activities and any journalist who tries to find out more will be stopped before he even reaches the gates of the camp. Rumors which cannot be verified mention departures "in small groups" and everyone is wondering: "How long will they remain inactive?" "This is an unusual situation for combatants and a tragic fate for those among them who had the opportunity to visit the Oued Zarga Palestinian soldiers.

9693

CSO: 4519/87

BRIEFS

LE KEF GOVERNOR INSPECTS BORDER POSTS--Mr Salem Mansouri, governor of Le Kef, formed a part of the Sidi-Youssef Sakiet delegation where he inspected the National Guard's major border posts. On this occasion, accompanied by the National Guard district head, the Sakiet representative and the mayor of Sakiet, the governor acquainted himself with working conditions and progress at six border posts, some of which were renovated under the 1981-1982 rural development program. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 5] 9693

ARMORED VEHICLES DELIVERED--The Ministry of the Interior is accepting shipment of some new armored vehicles. Supplied by Engesa (Brazil) and ordered in 1981, they include Cascavel EE-9's armed with 90-mm guns, Urutu EE-11's armed with 90 mm guns (18), and Urutu EE-11's armed with 7.62-mm FN MAG machine guns. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 5] 9693

MILITARY RECRUITMENT--The Ministry of National Defense intends to recruit young men to be trained as regular army officers. The candidates selected will enter the second cycle at the Military Academy directly. According to their qualifications, candidates who have successfully completed first cycle studies will be recruited. First cycle candidates (long cycle) and candidates having completed university studies (short cycle) at the following schools and institutions will be recruited through competition: Tunis National Engineers School, the School of Aviation and Meteorology, the Gabes Higher Technical Institute and the faculty of economics and management at Sfax. For its requirements, the Ministry of Defense plans to recruit candidates to be trained as officers in the military administrative, supply and commissariat corps. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 5] 9693

MILITARY DELEGATION IN MOROCCO--A military delegation has made a visit to Morocco. Headed by Colonel Touhami Machta, chief of staff of the Air Force, the delegation was responding to an invitation from Colonel Major Mohamed Kabjal, inspector general of the Royal Air Force, who had already made a visit to Tunisia last April. During its visit, which comes within the context of developing bilateral cooperation in all areas, the Tunisian delegation traveled to air force bases and installations. It also visited aeronautic industry plants and the base and school in Marrakesh. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 5] 9693

AL-KHUMS SELF-SUFFICIENCY--Sources at the popular committee for agricultural reclamation and land development in al-Khums stated that [the following] have been completed: 12 plexiglass greenhouses, 8 pilot fruit orchards, 35 fields for field crops, and 17 fields for vegetable crops. This is in the al-Khums region which is on the road to achieving self-sufficiency and meeting the fruit and vegetable needs of the local citizens. The sources also reported that the number of dairy cattle in the village has reached about 1200 head, producing about 4,068,049 liters of milk annually. The sources added that in the area of plant and forest production, 23,366 fruit tree seedlings of various types and 35,600 forest tree seedlings of various types were recently produced. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 19 Oct 82 p 3] 9605

RABBIT AND TURKEY SELF-SUFFICIENCY--The popular general committee for reclamation and land development reported that the secretariat is now engaged in preparing the final studies pertaining to the construction of 129 pens, each having a capacity of 6000 turkeys at a time in Tripoli, 5 pens with a capacity of 24,000 turkeys, 3 pens in the area of al-Biyan al-Awwal with a capacity of 24,000 turkeys each, and a pen in the Sabha area with a capacity of 18,000 birds. It also deals with the construction of three automated slaughterhouses capable of handling 1,700 birds per hour. Sources at the secretariat of agricultural reclamation and land development stated that these studies are aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in turkey meat. It also deals with production at the two Wadi Jarif farms and the poultry raising project, which is 657 tons annually, private sector projects whose production amounts to about 526 tons annually and 250 tons from village projects. Sources at agricultural reclamation and land development stated that projects for raising rabbits are now in progress in most villages of the Jamahiriyah. They are to produce 210 tons of rabbit meat annually from each project. It has also been agreed to set up two farms with a capacity of 5000 rabbits each to provide 320 tons annually in Tripoli and the city of al-Biyan al-Awwal. The general secretariat of the popular committee for agricultural reclamation and land development has also taken the final steps with regard to building 22 rabbit farms in the Tripoli area, ten farms in the al-Biyan al-Awwal area, and two farms in the al-Shararah al-Ula area at Sabha, each with a capacity of 5000 rabbits. It was also decided to build two automated slaughterhouses, the first in the Tripoli area capable of handling 1000 rabbits per hour, and the second in the al-Biyan al-Awwal area capable of handling 500 rabbits per hour. Each slaughterhouse will contain cold storage facilities and a rabbit fur workshop. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 13 Oct 82 p 4] 9605

WADI KI'AM AGRICULTURAL PROJECT--Sources at the Wadi Ki'am agricultural project stated that the study of soil, water, reclamation operations and roads at the project was completed, as well as construction of ten water tanks, a fuel station, two workshops and three work camps at the project. Building was completed on 341 farm residences, two model villages, 233 pens and 233 storehouses. The sources also reported that the project is 87 percent complete. In addition, 232 farmers have been trained in farm operations. The sources added that, so far, 180 students have graduated. The training courses are continuing in order to raise the ability of the workers at the project and increase productive capacity so that the project can make a positive contribution in achieving self-sufficiency. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 5 Oct 82 p 2] 9605

MASALLATAH AGRICULTURAL PROJECT--Sources at Masallatah agricultural project have stated that equipment has been provided and a detailed soil study made for the project, and 12 million hectares have been cultivated. Six producing wells have been drilled, 30 kilometers of fence put up, and 54 thousand trees planted as windbreaks out of a stock of 700,000 trees intended to be planted. Also, 267,000 fruit trees were planted out of a total of 308,000 to be planted at the project. Twelve pumps and an engine were also installed; 198 farms were set up; and 198 tractors, 81 trailers and 82 plows were distributed. In the area of rural development, 109 farmers have been trained since the beginning of the project. The Masallatah agricultural project is aimed at developing and cultivating 47,000 hectares in the form of terraces to fight erosion, take advantage of rainwater, and preserve the soil. The project is about 78 percent complete. [Text] [Tripoli AL-JAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 13 Oct 82 p 2] 9605

ARMS AND EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES--The Navy has just received its sixth Combatant-II-G missile-launching high speed patrol boat. This is the Beir Ktitat 532 which was delivered to Libya on 29 October. As for the next ship, the Beir Alkuefat 542, will be delivered on 18 December. The three remaining ships will be delivered in February, April and June 1983. To date the Armed Forces have received shipment of about 10 Palmaria 155-mm self-propelling guns manufactured by Oto Melara (Italy) on an order for 210 guns signed in 1981. The fourth Wadi missile-launching corvette, the Assad Al Hudud 415 (former Wadi Magrawa) has just been overhauled for the last time under warranty at the Italian CNR Naval Shipyards. It arrived in Genoa last May-June. The missile-launching high speed patrol boat Beir Algandula 528 was received by the Navy on 10 September. Built by CMN-France, this ship is the fifth of 10 Combattante II-G's ordered by Libya. With an in-use displacement of 311 metric tons (light displacement: 258 tons), this class measures 49 by 7.10 by 2 meters. It is powered by 4 type MTU-MD-20-V 538-TB-91 diesel motors providing a horsepower of 18,000 to 4 shafts (4 x 4,500 horsepower). They enable a speed of 39 knots at a displacement of 284 tons. The weaponry includes an Oto Melara 76-mm gun on the bow and a 40-mm Bofors gun and 4 Otomat missiles at the stern. The crew includes 19 officers and 8 crewmen. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 56, Nov 82 p 6] 9693

HADABAT AL-BUTNAN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT--Work is currently proceeding on the cultivation of 100,000 hectares of arable land at the Hadabat al Butnan project in the Tubruq area. Sources at the public administration for planning and monitoring in the general secretariat of the popular committee for agricultural reclamation and land development reported that work is proceeding at the project to search for ground water and to set up tanks and wells to store the water, in addition to constructing residential units for the project's workers. The sources stated that the operation to extend the irrigation network at the project is 53 percent complete and the greenhouses are 50 percent complete, while the area which has been covered with trees at the Hadabat al-Butnan project has reached 40 percent of the project's area. The sources added that the drilling of productive wells at the project is 60 percent complete. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 13 Oct 82 p 4] 9605

CSO: 4504/62

FIFTH POLISARIO CONGRESS REPORTED

Political Statement

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French No 976, 5-11 Nov 82 pp 14-17

[Article: "Political Declaration--Remarkable Development in All Areas"]

[Text] The Political Leadership of the Polisario Front

I. Members of the Executive Committee

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general | 5. Ibrahim Ghali |
| 2. Bachir Mustapha Sayed | 6. Ayoub Lehbib |
| 3. Mohamed Lamine Ahamed | 7. Mohamed Lamine Bouhali |
| 4. Mahfoud Ali Beiba | |

II. Members of the Political Bureau

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mohamed Ali Ould El-Ouali | 14. Moustapha Bouh |
| 2. Sid Ahamed Batal | 15. Maleinine Saddik |
| 3. El Kenti Jewda | 16. Boukhari Ahamed |
| 4. Ibrahim Hakim | 17. M'Hamed Khaddad |
| 5. Mohamed Ould El-Ouali | 18. Moulaye Abbass |
| 6. Nih Lehbib | 19. Senneya Ahamed Nerhba |
| 7. Benne Ebbaha | 20. Brahim Ahamed Mahmoud |
| 8. Abdelkader Taleb Omar | 21. Mohamed Lamine Baali |
| 9. Sid Ahmed Ahamed Mahamoud | 22. Hammoudi Ahamed Baba |
| 10. El Khali Ahamed | 23. El Mahjoub Brahim |
| 11. Mansour Omar | 24. Lehreitani Lehcene |
| 12. Abeida Cheikh | 25. Mohamed Salem Salek |
| 13. Fatimettou Allali | |

Under the motto "The Entire Homeland or Martyrdom," the Fifth General Popular Congress--the Congress of the Martyr Bachir Saleh--was held at the "Chahid El-Heddad" military base, in liberated territory, from 12 to 16 October 1982, 4 years after the Fourth Congress and more than 9 years after the Saharan people unleashed their armed struggle under the leadership of the Polisario Front.

The holding of this Congress took place in a context characterized by:

A--An imperialist offensive from all directions, aimed at liquidating the national-liberation movements and at making the progressive and nationalist movements fall into line, by annihilating the spirit and will of resistance among the peoples who are struggling for fulfillment of their legitimate rights to liberty and independence.

It is therefore not surprising that the Saharan people, their fight, and through it, the entire region of Northwest Africa are a target of this fierce offensive. This is the meaning of the direct military intervention by the United States in the expansionist war against our people.

B--Gains and successes, of considerable importance, achieved by our people in their difficult and tireless advance toward imposing their sovereignty over the entire Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. These achievements mark the advanced stage reached by the Saharan people's fight for freedom.

On the Military Level

The Congress warmly hailed the great victories won by the heroic Saharan people's army, resulting in liberation of the major part of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

The degree of organization, the technical knowledge and the exceptional experience now possessed by the ALPS [Saharan People's Liberation Army], together with its combativeness and its morale in the face of all tests, make it commensurate with the aspirations of our people for liberty, for dignity.

On the Popular Level

Political--The majority of our people are organized within the Polisario Front. There has been a generalized and profound increase in awareness among the masses because of political organization. National unity has been consolidated by the upgrading and mobilization of the combative energies of our people for prosecution of their struggle for national liberation and achievement of their objectives.

Administrative--The setting-up of a national administration that has proved its effectiveness in management of affairs of state and in solving the daily problems of the citizens. This ensures broad participation by the masses in the elective bodies and the popular rank-and-file congresses. This is the expression of a real and original democracy.

Social--The Polisario Front has worked out a homogeneous and successful social policy. It takes concrete form in the construction of the foundations of the state, by means of national institutions and competent organs, capable of meeting the needs of the stage at the time.

The Fifth General Popular Congress can only congratulate itself on the considerable progress achieved in the areas of education and health.

A--A great increase in the number of schools at the national, regional and local levels, which makes it possible to accommodate a large part of the Saharan

children of school age. Furthermore, the national school system has been provided with a specific school program taught by Saharan personnel.

B--Remarkable development in the area of health: many hospitals, dispensaries and preventive centers have been created; cadres and technicians have been trained. The general state of health has been considerably improved, despite limited means, thanks to a health policy based on prevention.

The Congress noted with satisfaction the enormous efforts put out by the Polisario Front with a view to improving the standard of living of our people, under these difficult conditions, and to encourage production in the areas of agriculture, stock-raising and crafts.

The Congress felt deep emotion about the selfless resistance manifested by our masses who are under occupation, and expressed pride in their courage and the way they reflect the aspirations of all our people as manifested in the fire of action in the combat of their people.

On the Diplomatic Level

A number of considerable achievements were noted; specifically, they are:

--the confirmation of the existence of the Saharan people, of the legitimacy of the combat that they are waging, under the leadership of the Polisario Front, against the Moroccan forces of aggression, and the necessity of respect for their unimpeachable right to national independence in conformity with the decisions of the international organizations, the United Nations in particular;

--the growing number of countries throughout the world that recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and the broadening of the area of solidarity and international sympathies with our people's struggle. This has been strengthened and confirmed by the peace agreement made between the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which was a signatory of the evil "Madrid Agreement."

The great success constituted by the admission of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic to the OAU marked the failure of the Moroccan expansionist policy and closed the door on the parodies of a solution that it was desired to impose on our people.

On the other hand, the situation experienced by the Moroccan expansionist regime has constantly deteriorated in these last 4 years. This is evidenced by: the sharp military defeats suffered by the Moroccan forces of aggression--defeats that profoundly weakened the morale of those troops--reduction of their presence over the major part of the national territory, and the failure of the military plans worked out by French imperialism. It is also evidenced by the deterioration of the economic, social and political situation in Morocco resulting from the effects of the war of aggression. This is aggravating the domestic crisis and demonstrates that the Moroccan people do not recognize themselves in this war and that it is the king's war.

The popular uprisings and bloody riots that occurred in Morocco in mid-June, together with the regional and international isolation in which the Moroccan regime is struggling, are the confirmation of this.

Today the Saharan people are a military and political force that inevitably has to be reckoned with in order to put an end to the war and to find for them, through negotiation, which is the best way, a just, peaceful and definitive solution, on the basis of respect for our people's inalienable right to independence and national sovereignty. Nevertheless, Morocco, by its intransigence, has closed the door on the peaceful solution proposed by the Polisario Front and the Saharan government and ratified by the international organizations.

In view of the disastrous domestic situation in Morocco, despite the multiform support furnished to it at the time by the French government, persistence in this intransigent attitude and the decision in favor of military escalation would not have been possible without recourse to an imperialist force that is taking the war against our people in charge.

This is what has been demonstrated by events with the failure of the Franco-Moroccan plan at Ouarkiz and by the defensive position to which the Moroccan army has been confined since then.

In an initial phase, it was the retrenchment of the Moroccan army's troops in a limited section of our territory thanks to American supervision and materiel, and foreign financial injections and investments, that bolstered the Moroccan economy in its crisis. In addition to experts, the United States undertook the supplying of a panoply of armaments and airplanes to Morocco. At that precise moment, the king of Morocco made a show of accepting the principle of peaceful solution, brandishing in the OAU the slogan of "referendum."

On that occasion, the Polisario Front constantly declared that any referendum operation in the Western Sahara could be possible only after withdrawal of the occupation forces and negotiations between the two parties in conflict--that is, Morocco and the Polisario Front. But rejection of this principle by the king of Morocco prevents any progress in the search for a peaceful solution on this basis.

Worse, the king of Morocco is trying to extend and legitimize the occupation of our country [as published]. This is thus a simple maneuver to gain time and prepare the conditions for direct American military intervention, confirmed and materialized by the American-Moroccan strategic agreement and by the creation of a joint military general staff under cover of the joint commission, in order to conduct the war against our people.

The Rabat regime is thus transforming Moroccan territory into American military bases directed against the stability and security of the region.

The United States means to make Morocco a new Iran of the shah and to protect the regime of Hassan II by blood, bombs and internationalization of the conflict. The misery, suffering and colonization of the Moroccan people by these military bases directed against the peoples of the region are the cost of it.

This also constitutes a precedent for violation of the borders inherited from the colonial era, opening up the way to recolonization of the continent.

Under the pressure from the banking circles, known for their accommodating attitude toward kings and shahs, the United States has thus made its choice in favor of Hassan II, to the detriment of the peoples of the region.

The massacres of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and the American-Moroccan plots subsequently hatched, thus constituting the political side of the Middle East extermination plan, therefore disclose the role assigned to Morocco by the United States.

Objectives of Revolution

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French No 976, 5-11 Nov 82 pp 21-22, 24-27

[Article: "Program of General National Action--Achieving the Objectives of the Revolution"]

[Text] Under the motto "The Entire Homeland or Martyrdom," the Fifth General Popular Congress--the Congress of the Martyr Bachir Saleh--was held in conditions decisive for the history of the Saharan people, characterized by the open intervention of the United States alongside the invaders of our homeland. This imposes on us a general mobilization and total commitment in order to cope with this decisive phase in the war of national liberation.

After 7 years of heroic popular armed struggle against the expansionist regime of Morocco, supported by imperialism, the Saharan people, under the leadership of the Polisario Front, have been able to liberate the major part of the national territory, to inflict defeat on the invading Moroccan troops, whose presence has been reduced enormously, and to build the social institutions as well as the foundations of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR)--and this at the time when its young state (the SDAR) is taking its place in the international arena and is steadily advancing, by sure steps, down the road toward full achievement of its national sovereignty.

The struggle of our people is going through a decisive stage today, marked by a coordinated and total imperialist offensive aimed at impairing the liberation and independence of the homeland.

In order to respond to this new situation in a concrete manner, the Congress, aware of the demands of the current phase, considers it indispensable, in the light of the program of action issuing from the Fourth General Popular Congress, the Congress of the Martyr Sidi Haidoug, to work out a new national program of action as an expression of our people's unshakable determination to continue their fight for freedom with the aim of achieving total independence and giving concrete expression to the Congress' motto, "The Entire Homeland or Martyrdom."

On the Political-Organizational Level

1) Working for deepening of political awareness and consolidation of organization of the masses.

2) Continual mobilization of all of the people of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic with a view to fulfillment of the requirements for achievement of national sovereignty, evacuation of the troops of aggression and the return of our people to their homeland, recovering their dignity and their national unity in the fight for liberty and total independence.

3) Broadening the base of the participation by the masses in management of the affairs of the state within the framework of the elected popular institutions and in conformity with fulfillment of the specific tasks of the stage in progress, creating specialized and competent frameworks among these masses, capable of entirely fulfilling the state's prerogatives.

4) Central oversight and follow-up of the political organization's apparatus in order to enable it to play its vanguard role in leadership and orientation of the popular masses in order to win the war for national liberation. Devotion to the noble values of our people in order to establish the national personality firmly at the cadre level, so as to create a revolutionary example.

6) [as published] Generalizing politicization and rooting it deeply within the mass organizations in order for them to play their role fully among women, students and workers, internally and externally.

7) Working for generalization of the popular militia and the raising of its military and heroic level, for it constitutes a reserve for our armed forces.

8) Working out a general and homogeneous program for raising the level of the cadres of the political organization and strengthening their political, organizational and cultural capabilities.

9) Selection and advancement of cadres in accordance with the criteria of militancy.

10) Working for the review 20 MAY, the central organ of the Polisario Front, to play its role as a cultural and intellectual bond between the militants and the people as a whole.

11) Working for generalization of the political organization in all sectors of the state, especially in the national institutions, and achieving concrete expression of the motto "People under Arms." Since our people's fundamental task is to win the war, the objective of political activity is general mobilization and the moral and material strengthening of the instrument of war.

12) Linking the masses in the occupied zones and elsewhere with the advance of our people, through the intermediary of the political organization.

On the Administrative Level

1) Completing the planning of the administration (codes, measures, laws), to serve as a basis for the model of administration in the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

- 2) Developing the popular councils and committees issuing from the rank-and-file popular congresses as essential means for management and execution.

On the Social Level

Education

- 1) Generalizing education--obligatory and free--for all children of school age, and increasing the number of schools and teachers and furnishing the necessary equipment.
- 2) Necessity of training and constant retraining of cadres (teachers, professors, activators), working toward improvement of their level of professional competence and deepening of their level of awareness.
- 3) Working constantly for advancement of women in education and for elevation of their intellectual and pedagogical level, with a view to meeting the needs of primary education and creating sufficient reserves.
- 4) Creating a propitious climate within the educational institutions so as to ensure the moral and social education of children.
- 5) Setting up a library system capable of meeting the constantly growing needs in the area of general culture.
- 6) Working to ensure quantitative and qualitative sufficiency of teachers in primary and middle education, and solving the problem of secondary and university education.
- 7) Orienting the students in higher education and training the middle-level cadres on the basis of the priorities of the national needs.
- 8) Periodic and continual revision of the educational program and constant re-adaptation of it to the evolution of education in the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.
- 9) Orienting the family--the child's first school--to ensure complementarity between the child and school.
- 10) Deepening the experience of the regional schools.
- 11) Intensifying the literacy campaigns to encompass the people as a whole.

B) [as published] Education (Child-Rearing)

- 1) Training cadres capable of carrying out their task in an aware and complete manner and possessing better knowledge of child psychology and the stages of growth, as well as the requirements of each stage as regards competence in the area of cultural stimulation and training.
- 2) Oversight, follow-up and advancement of women activators on the cultural and political levels by means of periodic training and refresher-training courses.

3) Bringing together the necessary instruments--construction and equipment--for ensuring execution of the program.

4) Developing the Koranic schools and raising their level, because of the fact that they constitute the phase preparatory to formal schooling.

On the Level of Health

a) Prevention

1) To take basic measures for prevention, in all its forms, as the best means for combating sickness, and assigning it the highest importance at all levels.

2) Care of the mother, the infant and the preschool child.

3) Working to raise the citizen's level of health education, through the popular committees, the specialized centers and the national conferences. Working out an orientation program for this purpose.

b) Health Care

1) Rational exploitation of the health means available for solving all the problems, using the factors of work and upgrading of what has been done.

2) Working to raise the level of the hospitals on the regional and national levels in order for them to be capable of fulfilling their task effectively, both in the area of medical care and in that of prevention.

3) Improving the level of the local dispensaries in order for them to be able to carry out their task well.

c) Training

Working for the training in greater depth of the higher-level and middle-level specialist health personnel, in order for them to be able to carry out their role entirely.

d) Equipment

Working for the necessary health equipment and medications in collaboration with the Saharan Red Crescent.

On the Legal Level

1) Unifying the law and decreeing a legal procedure on the basis of all of the problems posed and taking into account the stage that our people are going through.

2) All the orientations, legal programs and orders should have a common aim: the demographic growth of the people and their unity for liberation of the homeland and fulfillment of the sovereignty of the SDAR.

3) Justice should play its role as mobilizer for Al-Jihad (holy war) and for orientation in order to preserve the values and patrimony of our people.

On the Economic Level

a) Nutrition

1) Working to promote social activities for fulfilling the necessary requirements of the people on the basis of the principle of self-sufficiency with a view to giving concrete form to the people's own strength and imposing national independence.

2) Constantly raising the nutritional level, quantitatively and qualitatively.

b) The Production Units

1) Agriculture: encouraging and organizing regional initiative and deepening the experience of the liberated territories in particular.

--Exploiting the knowledge of the specialists and all the means available in this area.

--Centralizing the efforts and organizing the units.

2) Stock-Raising: Working for development of stock-raising so as to provide for feeding the entire population.

3) Crafts: Creating a national central exchange in charge of this area.

--Producing on the basis of local materials and using things left by the war as raw material.

On the Military Level

1) Multiplying the efforts to build a popular army capable of successfully waging modern warfare in order to preserve the dignity of our people eternally.

2) Raising the level of the army general staffs and training the specialist cadres in this domain, capable of responding effectively to the requirements of warfare.

3) Training and constant refresher training of the specialists in all military fields.

4) Achieving deeper awareness, taking into account the nature of modern warfare and its requirements on the moral, material and organizational levels. Continuing and developing the efforts in cultural training so as to create the mentality of the revolutionary fighter, disciplined, aware and capable of liberating the still-occupied territories of the SDAR.

5) Forming the national cadre, courageous and capable in the area of analysis and planning on the general level.

6) Taking in charge the health sector of the ALPS and training the specialist cadres in this field.

On the Diplomatic Level

1) Strengthening the bonds of the Popular Revolution in the SDAR with its natural and historic allies within the Arab nation, in Africa and throughout the world.

2) Consolidating the progressive front of the Saharan, Algerian and Libyan revolutions as the first fundamental step in giving concrete form to the alliance among the peoples of the Maghreb and as an edifying example for the Arab and African peoples.

3) Working for the SDAR to occupy its natural place within the international and regional organizations as a sovereign state that respects the customs, principles and foundations of international and regional relations and organizations. Obtaining more recognitions, broadening the base of the alliance, of the SDAR's solidarity and cooperation with other countries on the basis of common interest, mutual respect and respect for the international principles, charters and customs.

4) Deepening the SDAR's gains in Africa and working toward new gains in the United Nations and at the level of the movement of nonaligned countries in order for our state to occupy its natural place among nations.

5) Thwarting all maneuvers and plans aimed at injuring our national independence throughout all the territory of the SDAR, in accordance with the motto of the Fifth General Popular Congress, "The Entire Homeland or Martyrdom."

6) Extending and deepening our relations with the largest number of countries in the world so as to broaden the field of solidarity with and support for the cause of our people.

7) Working pointedly to clarify our people's cause in the Arab nation.

8) Strengthening the bonds with the liberation movements, the parties and the mass organizations, national and continental.

9) Working to broaden the field of solidarity through multiplication of friendship associations and support committees. Intensifying the contacts with the humanitarian organizations in order to develop their support on the levels of material aid and information.

On the Level of Information

Consolidating the information apparatus in order to develop explanation of our people's cause and to encourage the cultural production that expresses the history, the original patrimony and the contemporary combat of our people.

Charter of SDAR

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French No 976, 5-11 Nov 82 pp 28-29

[Article: "Constitution of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic--Living with Freedom and Dignity"]

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic is the fruit of the heroic and historic struggle of the Saharan people for the safeguarding of their national independence and their territorial integrity; it is the concrete expression of their will to live in freedom and dignity, in accordance with the decisions of the international bodies that recognize their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and whose charters the SDAR is committed to respecting.

The Saharan people are an Arab, African and Moslem people, and they opt for the policy of nonalignment, the struggle for the unity of the peoples of the Arab nation, of the African continent, and with full conviction in favor of the militant solidarity of the peoples of the world to impose a just and equitable world order that contributes to the building of a humanity in which justice reigns and whose nations are linked by relations of equality and mutual respect.

Chapter 1--Fundamental Principles

Article 1: Saguia El Hamra and Rio de Oro, in its historic borders, is a Democratic Arab Republic. The republican political system is committed to respecting the unionist program opened.

Article 2: The SDAR is a part of the Arab nation, of the African family and of the community of peoples of the Third World.

Article 3: Islam is the state religion and the source of the laws. The Arabic language is the national and official language.

Article 4: The search for unity of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb constitutes a waypoint toward Arab and African unity; defense of the homeland and of liberty is a sacred duty; the achievement of socialism and the application of social justice are one of the objectives of the state.

Article 5: The family, the basis of society, is founded on morality and religion.

Article 6: All citizens are equal before the law, and they have the same rights and duties.

Article 7: Freedom of expression is guaranteed within the limits of the law and the interests of the people. Education and health and social protection are rights guaranteed to all citizens.

Article 8: The national property belongs to the people, and private ownership is guaranteed so long as it does not involve exploitation.

Article 9: The payment of imposts and taxes is a duty defined by law.

Article 10: The right of political asylum is guaranteed.

Article 11: The national flag and the device of the state are defined by a law.

Chapter II--Governmental System:

A--Council of Command of the Revolution

Article 12: The Council of Command of the Revolution is the supreme organ of the executive power of the SDAR and it has competence over the affairs of sovereignty and of legislation. It establishes the general policy of the state.

Article 13: The secretary general of the Polisario Front is the chief of state.

Article 14: The Council of Command of the Revolution designates the government, which is composed of ministers and secretaries general of the ministries.

Article 15: The Council of Command of the Revolution declares war and concludes international agreements and treaties, which are signed by the chief of state.

Article 16: The chief of state names the political representatives and ambassadors and accredits the foreign political representatives and ambassadors.

B--The Government

Article 17: It is composed of a prime minister, ministers, and secretaries general of the ministries.

Article 18: The government oversees the execution of the programs worked out by the rank-and-file popular congresses and the popular committees under the supervision of the chief of state.

Article 19: It passes the general budget.

Article 20: The Saharan People's Liberation Army is at the service of the people. It ensures defense of the unity and territorial integrity of the homeland and participates in the economic and social life of the country. Its organization is fixed by a law.

Chapter III--The Legislative Power

Article 21: The Saharan National Council is a legislative and advisory power.

Article 22: It ratifies conventions.

Article 23: It decides on its internal regulations.

Article 24: The members of the Executive Committee of the government may attend the sessions of the National Council, but without the right to vote.

Article 25: It holds periodic meetings.

Article 26: It holds extraordinary meetings at the request of the chief of state or at the request of two-thirds of its members.

Chapter IV--The Judicial Power

Article 27: Justice is based on the principle of separation of powers. The judge is required to render justice. The judgments are rendered and executed in the name of the people.

A--Judicial Council

Article 28: It is composed of presiding judges of the courts and is presided over by the minister of justice.

Article 29: He appoints the judges and recalls them after consultation with experts.

Article 30: He establishes its internal regulations.

Article 31: He proposes the laws for organization of the courts and their competencies to the government.

B--The Courts

Article 32: The courts are composed of primary courts, a Court of Appeal and a Supreme Court of the People.

Article 33: The Court of State Security is a special court. Its members are designated by the Council of Command of the Revolution, and its competencies are fixed by a law.

Chapter V--Temporary General Provisions

Article 34: The name of the People's Liberation Army shall remain in force until recovery by the Saharan Arab people of their sovereignty over their entire homeland.

Article 35: The Executive Committee of the Polisario Front shall fulfill the functions of the Council of Command of the Revolution until the holding of the first general popular congress, after the recovery of sovereignty.

11267

CSO: 4519/79

WEST BANK WAQF FUNDS SAID USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 82 pp 9, 10

[Article by Tzvi Barel: "The Jordanian Institution and the West Bank, Part I: Holy Funds"]

[Text] It seemed reasonable to assume that the decision of the Rabat conference would have dealt a death blow to the ties between Jordan and the West Bank. The decision of 1974 determined that the PLO was the only representative of the Palestinian people. Four years later, however, at the Baghdad Conference, a new resolution was accepted which ties, and in effect, handcuffs Jordan to the PLO. The actual outcome of that conference was the establishment of the joint Jordanian-PLO committee which controlled the flow of funds intended to support the "strong stand" against the conqueror in the territories, but actually was directed at political acquisitions for the good of the PLO under Jordanian supervision.

This committee brought turmoil to Jordan. The need to consult with and get PLO permission for every dinar designated for the West Bank shut down all the independent political activity Jordan had enjoyed until 1978. The PLO demanded things and Jordan had no choice but to go along even though, at times, it did not agree with the objectives for which the money was sent.

The Hashemite kingdom, however, soon found a way to circumvent this and save the central pillars of Jordanian policy and prevent the decline of those elements likely to support Jordan's political approach on the West Bank.

"Money, money and more money"—this is the pivot around which one of the most powerful institutions in East Jerusalem and the West Bank turns—the Waqf group—which is said to deal with everything connected with matters of Moslem religious endowments in these territories. Mystery surrounds this institution and its Moslem high council which represents the highest political/religious body on the West Bank and allows participating members to be active in ways whose connection to religion is, at times, purely accidental.

The Waqf group and the Waqf council number nine members, among them personages like Anwar Nusaybah, Ibrahim al-Tawil (ex-mayor of Al-Bira), Dr 'Abd-al-Nabi from Hebron (who was a favorite of his Moslem brothers), and Ibrahim Dakak (a member of the committee for national direction which was disbanded), whose connection to religion goes via the political education they received more than via a book of prayers.

According to Jordanian law, these groups are said to deal with and be concerned about Moslem assets, to increase them as much as possible, and to encourage the religious consciousness among the residents. For this purpose, seven subdivisions have been established. These have been set up to deal with the huge assets which come to 1,500,000 dunams of land, hundreds of businesses, dozens of residences, and a work staff responsible for about 100 mosques.

Naturally, the financial division of Waqf is considered to be very important. This department is the oil that moves the wheels of this powerful machine which resides in an ancient building on the Temple Mount and from which tentacles reach out across all the cities and towns of the West Bank. To the visitor of the site of the Waqf council, it appears as if the Temple Mount is always celebrating one of the holidays. Villagers from Samaria ask for funds to build a new mosque. A man from Bethlehem wants to set aside a piece of land for the public good. A group of youths wants to express its opposition to the content of a sermon made by the preacher on Friday. Messengers sent from one office to another carry papers and forms which contain requests for the appointment of teachers, muezzins, preachers or caretakers. A printer brings the cover of a new Waqf magazine called "Thanks to Islam" for approval. Visitors and the curious, friends and relatives of those holding positions there fill the halls of the neglected building, and telephones never stop ringing and cutting off conversations between people with concerns and clerks.

All of this activity means money. An additional preacher means an additional salary, a new mosque involves a budget of hundreds or thousands of dinars, everything according to location, importance and the closeness of those requesting to the pot. Such a mosque calls for a new service as well, a gatekeeper, janitor, muezzin, a preacher and, sometimes, we are speaking of a staff of 10 people who eat what they get from the Waqf division.

The support of hundreds of families is dependent on the stores belonging to Waqf and these are rented on a yearly basis or for many years. Although the rent paid to Waqf is low compared to what private contractors would be paid, because of the density of businesses and factories, you can imagine what kind of income Waqf derives as owners, and this is quite apart from the dozens of apartment buildings in which hundreds of families live who are almost completely dependent on Waqf so that without the inexpensive housing they get, they would be without a roof over their heads.

According to the director of the Waqf organization, Mr Hasan Takhabuv, annual income is about 300,000 dinars (about 24 million shekels), but some in that same organization say that income from assets approaches a million dinars. And this does not include the regular budget which the government of Jordan pays through the Waqf Ministry and which approaches 2 million dinars annually. This budget is designated for paying the salaries of about 1,500 workers and for the ongoing maintenance of the mosques and educational institutions which belong to Waqf for construction and expansion.

"We always find ourselves with a budget deficit," says Mr Hassan Takhabuv whose brother is director of Waqf in Hebron and whose nephew is in charge of the lands division, "but the Jordanian Government takes good care of us and makes up the difference." That deficit does not necessarily come from the Jordanian Government's pocket since the Arab states contribute heavily to the Waqf division, although it is transferred entirely through the Jordanian Ministry.

The Supreme Islamic Council stands above the Waqf council and presents the political face of religion. Its statutory base was established in 1951 when Jordan cancelled mandatory rule on the basis of which the council was established in 1921. Jordan worried then about the granting of separate powers to a religious institution with influence on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. In place of the council, a "council of scholars" was established all of whose members were chosen by the Jordanian Government. They had no independent decisionmaking power without the approval of the government. After the Six Days War, the members of the Islamic Council decided to establish the council anew. Their argument was that the West Bank was now a new entity, separate from Jordan and thus requiring the creation of a supreme religious body to deal exclusively with matters concerning the West Bank.

The council never recognized Israel nor does Israel recognize it, but in order to conduct orderly religious daily life, unofficial practices were established over time which could be easily destroyed if one side or the other became excessively stubborn. Thirty-five council members, Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Ilmi at their head, represent the omnipotent body on the subject of religious politics on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. They are responsible for appointing the shari'a judges, for calling the courts into session, for appointing the heads of departments, for distribution of funds coming from Jordan and for the management of communications with international groups about everything connected with Israeli activity in the territories. To a large extent, they also represent a staff of responses intended to give an institutional coloring to the state of mind on the West Bank. The Supreme Islamic Council sent hundreds of memos, telegrams and letters to embassies, heads of state and institutions in reaction to the excavations at the Temple Mount, the expropriation of lands, destruction of houses, unorganized prayers by Jews in the Cave of Makhpelah in Hebron and break-ins of members of nationalist groups to the Temple Mount.

Press conferences, which the council used to hold and still holds, serve as a platform for the airing of political views which are not necessarily connected with religion such as the condemnation of village associations and the expression of support for the PLO as happened after the Temple Mount incidents in April of this year. More than anything else, however, the Moslem Council represents a kind of pipeline for the flow of funds from Jordan and Arab countries to the West Bank. Although the council, which is not legally recognized by the Jordanian Government, does not have its own budget, in fact the Jordanian Government see it as the pillar on which it can base its policy, and, especially, can create appropriate ties with the right people in order to maintain the political connection between the two banks.

These ties, intended to produce a favorable public opinion and an administrative base which will serve the Jordanian Government if it controls the West Bank someday again, are bought with bribes which are not listed in the accounting books of the Waqf organization or the Moslem Council. Thus, for example, security forces recently confiscated a contract signed by the Jordanian Government and Mr Anwar Nusaybah, a member of the council, for the establishment of a religious school. The amount noted came to more than 5 million dollars.

This is a bit high for a school. Recently, there has been a flow of mukhtars (village headmen) to Jordan, and rumors have it that Jordan has stated once again to give budgets to village councils, something which was stopped when it was decided that every sum of money designated for aid to the West Bank would first have to be approved by a joint committee for Jordan and the PLO. In this way, the Waqf and the Moslem Council was seen as having decisive importance, since they allowed Jordan to transfer huge amounts of money to the West Bank via the joint committee and to create thus a direct and powerful link with those groups which Jordan wanted to honor or might want to extract a political debt when the time came.

9348

CSO: 4423/33

ARABS SAID PURCHASING LAND IN COUNTRY

Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew No 29, 29 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Adad Kaysari: "MK Ra'anan Na'im: It is Suspected That Rich Arab States are Financing the Organized Purchase of Land in Israel"]

[Text] Is the great fear that existed in Israel for years that Arab countries would decide to acquire property in Israel now coming to pass?

The one who sounded the alarm on this subject last week was MK Ra'anan Na'im (Alignment) who called on the government to prevent this from happening.

"It is very unsettling," says MK Na'im, "to be shown that in various places in the Galilee like Upper Nazareth and Karmiel, Arabs are acquiring lands, property and businesses from Jewish residents. It is as though things were topsy turvy and there is an Ishmael National Fund which is starting to acquire systematically, just as once the Jewish National Fund did, land and property from Jews."

MK Na'im warns that this process is growing stronger. "We are a democratic state," the speaker explains, "and there is nothing wrong with an Arab from Nazareth acquiring property next to a Jew, but my fear is that what is happening here is an organized acquisition of land on the part of Arabs behind whom stand wealthy Arab countries like Kuwait and even the PLO."

[Question] What is your fear about this organized acquisition based on?

[MK Na'im] In my opinion, we are talking about an undercover Arab national fund, and I base this belief on the fact that some of the Arabs buying property do not have the financial means to be making such large purchases. It is unlikely that they are able to do this on their own, and I would guess that someone is behind them. I received this information from people who are active in the Galilee council who keep their eyes on the region. The situation is very serious, in my opinion, because it is a matter of massive financial support.

[Question] What, in your opinion, should the government do to prevent this from happening?

[MK Na'im] In my mind, this is a national issue which the government of Israel must respond to immediately. I am considered to be one of the hawks in the Alignment, and my positive attitude toward Judea and Samaria is well known. Yet I argue now that the Galilee, about half of whose population is Arab, should be given preferential treatment equal to that given to Judea and Samaria. The situation calls for the government to act in two directions. The first involves encouraging settlement of the Galilee by helping young couples and new immigrants to settle there. Northern development towns, especially, should be helped, and there should be encouragement for the development of industries with lots of know how.

The second involves creating a legal obstacle which will prevent the acquisition of land from Jews by Arabs suspected of being financed by Arab nations or by the PLO. Even outside Israel, in Europe and in America, a clear goal on the part of Arab oil barons--Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Gulf region is unfolding--to acquire assets on a large scale. Ownership of property confers also political influence. I know that in some states, people are already aware of this objective, and legal steps have been taken to reduce the Arab spread. There is no reason for us not to do the same.

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CSO: 4423/33

LIVING STANDARD OF ARAB SECTOR SAID IMPROVED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 82 pp 7, 8

[Article by 'Atallah Mansur: "The Segregation of the Israeli Arabs"]

[Text] Since the establishment of the State of Israel, widespread changes have taken place in the condition of the Arab population in Israel. At first, most of the Arabs were peasants who lived in small backward villages most of whose older population was illiterate. In a population census conducted in 1961, 49.5 percent of the Arab population (over 14 years of age) was found to have no schooling, and, undoubtedly, the situation in the early '60s was an improvement over the situation in 1949. In the 1972 census, the percentage of illiterate Arabs dropped to 24.4, and from then on further progress probably took place. In the area of post-elementary and university education, also, impressive changes took place. Instead of dozens of high school students in the '50s, today tens of thousands are studying in high schools and about 4,000 are studying in institutions of higher learning.

In terms of standard of living, there is also a noticeable change for the better. Small dilapidated villages have become large densely populated towns. The winding alleys which used to stink of sewage are now crowded with lawyers' offices, clinics and business centers. Local councils organize market days for villages in their jurisdiction, and labor and industry centers have risen quickly since the villages have gotten electricity. Urbanization and modernization in the Arab settlements is no longer a matter of wishful thinking but has become a reality which in many cases is accompanied by "diseases" typical of urban society when it is liberated from the traditional framework of the village. Crime has increased, but the middle class is growing along with professionals, construction contractors, businessmen and owners of advanced agricultural farms.

Against this background it is easy to understand the flourishing of the "Progressive Movement--Nazareth." The nucleus of the party is an educated group in their 40s, men of academic training and a history of cooperation with RAKAH in the "Nazareth Democratic Front," a group established before HADASH and not at the instigation of RAKAH workers. The initiative for the establishment of the Nazareth Democratic Front came from the organization of academicians in Nazareth, a pressure group which had tried in the early '70s to gain standing and influence over the youth of the city. The former mayor,

Mr Sif al-Din Zo'ari, was insulted by the forcefulness of the attempt of the group to pressure him into assuring pure drinking water for Nazareth (incidentally, the problem is still unsolved. Residents still drink from an open well.) The reaction of the Nazareth academicians was to set up a "front" for Nazareth, and the Communists jumped on the bandwagon, aided by the academicians, and captured the town. Since then, a black cat has crossed the path between the non-partisan academicians and RAKAH, and they accuse the Mayor Tawfiq Ziad of almost the same things that they accused his predecessor of: preferential treatment of party members, using the town for the needs of friends and the party, and shunting aside vital issues in favor of personal matters.

An Encouraging Experience

The "Nazareth Democratic Front," or, as it is presently called, the "Progressive Movement--Nazareth" decided this time to function independently and has begun to see results. During the past year, the movement has succeeded in recruiting hundreds of members, organizing them, selecting institutions, renting an office, publishing pamphlets on several occasions, organizing a fund-raising campaign among its supporters (to give assistance to those injured in clashes with the police) and collecting a sum of money close to that collected by the municipality and the RAKAH apparatus (the movement collected 120,000 shekels and the municipality 150,000 shekels). In contrast to the municipality and the RAKAH organization, the progressive movement released a public statement which included criticism not only of (illegible) of the police in the city but also criticized the irresponsible actions perpetrated by demonstrators such as attacks on buses and on passersby who were totally unconnected to the events. "Such irresponsible actions damage the reputation of Nazareth," their manifesto declared.

The group members are not prepared to outline their plans for the future in detail, and they express the hope that their success in Nazareth will encourage similar groups in other Arab settlements, and that eventually these groups will join together into a single Arab party which will operate tactically as Agudat Israel does, namely, by supporting anyone who works for the advancement of the Arab sector. Members of the group who, until a year or two ago, functioned within the framework of the "Nazareth Democratic Front" with RAKAH, still use revolutionary rhetoric and they still say that they will "struggle" and "fight," but they end each discussion by stating that for them "the emphasis is on local issues. This is the main difference between us and RAKAH. We do not intend to devote much energy to external issues, and we will not listen to things which come from outside Israel."

"Of course we support the right of the Palestinian people to live in peace alongside Israel, not in its place," says Dr Rashid Salim, one of the founders of the group. It is the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future. It is not up to anyone--nor to us--to determine how they put this into effect in an independent state or by joining with another state. We are justified in asking that the realization of this right be carried out with consideration for the State of Israel in a peaceful way that allows for coexistence."

The chances of success for the group depend on many factors. The most reasonable possibility in the works would be to gain representation on the Nazareth town council to be chosen in a year. Its main opponents, RAKAH and Alignment, will fight it, but, in the final analysis, Alignment is still viewed by the Arab sector as the part of the government even though it does not have the reins of government. It rules in the Federation, in the workers' councils, in the workers' committees and in the settlement movements. On the other hand, neither Alignment nor RAKAH has filled the needs of the Arab public, and a study of "pressure" conducted in April of this year demonstrates, among other things, that 60 percent of Israeli Arabs support the establishment of an Arab party. If such a party were to be established, it would take away from the strength of Alignment and RAKAH equally. A previous study by Dr Sami Samukha from Haifa University showed similar results.

Indifference

It is reasonable to assume that the establishment of an Arab party will not be an easy process. The fact that among those active in organizing in Nazareth are some who in the past were involved in the Nasserist movement, "al-Arad," will serve as a convenient excuse for the government to restrict the organizing (even though "al-Arad" was dispersed and declared illegal by the defense minister more than a dozen years ago). Such a move would help the two parties to continue to fight over the Arab voters, but it would also reduce the percentage of Arabs going to the polls.

The civic indifference of the Israeli Arab is continually on the rise. In the elections for the third Knesset (1955), more than 90 percent of registered Arab voters voted. Since then, in a consistent manner, the percent of those exercising their voting rights has dropped to the point that, in the elections last year, only 68 percent of registered voters voted (in several villages, among them G'oth, the village of the MAPAM candidate MK Muhammed Watad, no more than 60 percent of the voters voted). Compare this to the active involvement demonstrated by the Arab populace in the elections for local councils where the percentage of voters is generally no less than 90 percent. The explanation for this gap is very simple. The Knesset and its sessions are not seen as "within reach" of the Arab voter. Its representatives there, Mr Meir Vilner and Mr Charlie Biton, Tawfiq Toby and Tawfiq Ziad (HADASH) or Hamid Halayla and Muhammed Watad (Alignment) are not seen by the Arab voter as people involved in issues and actions worth the effort of standing with one's wife and sister on line at the polls. Elections for the local council seem more important. The council will decide whether to pave a road near his house or next to his enemy's house. The council will decide who will direct a school, his son or the brother of his rivals. He wants representation for his neighborhood, his hamula or his community in the council. The only issue that the Arab citizen has with the central government concerns religious facilities. A study by the Ministry of Religion last year revealed that in Israel (in the 1967 borders), there were 124 mosques in fewer than 100 villages. Last year there were 23 new mosques in various stages of construction (and 30 have undergone renovation). In the Christian and Druze villages there are houses of prayer in every village. During the last decade, a great deal of money has been collected for the establishment of institutions of education, culture and society in all the Christian villages.

All of these--the tendency toward the establishment of an Arab party and the lack of involvement in the Knesset elections, attest to a process of segregation. Involvement in joint frameworks of Jews and Arabs has been weakened, to a large extent, whether because of lack of involvement on the part of the Jewish public or lack of government support (for those frameworks set up by Alignment in its time). The Arabs find themselves far from the centers of action. Official Israeli policy does not allow them to enter the center of the public arena and, in fact, bars their way. The war in Lebanon against the Palestinians and tragic events like the massacre in West Beirut, force them to rebel. As early as 1976, Dr Avraham Binyamin and Mrs Rachel Peleg from the School of Education at Haifa University (in their study of "Future Aspirations of Arab 8th Graders and Its Social Significance") found that "the only chance for establishing integrative and solid relations is through professional social participation of the two social groups and the development of symmetrical and mutual reciprocity which will assure organic solidarity according to the terminology of Durkheim, that is, solidarity deriving from mutual reciprocity. At present, however, the Jews and Arabs are facing in opposite and conflicting directions.

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AID TO COSTA RICA

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by a DAVAR reporter: "Israel Will Deposit 7 Million Dollars in Banks in Costa Rica to Help Its Economy"]

[Text] Israel will deposit 7 million dollars from foreign reserves in banks in Costa Rica. This was reported yesterday at the conclusion of the visit of the Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem explained that the deposit is intended to assist the economy of Costa Rica. In the course of the visit, further steps were reported such as the encouragement of United States Jews to vacation in Costa Rica and also Israel's intention of buying coffee from this country. As a symbol of Israel's intention to help in the area of agriculture, Shamir announced that he had brought with him a present on Israel's behalf--a tractor. Israel will also give scholarships to students from Costa Rica and will soon receive a delegation of researchers.

Shamir's aides reported that his visit was successful. His hosts received him warmly and broadcast friendly declarations praising Israel. Shamir was received by all the members of the Jewish congregation and by hundreds of residents.

In discussions with President Luis Alberto Munje and Foreign Minister Julio Jimenez, Shamir brought up an old proposal of his: the establishment of a "league of democratic states." (Costa Rica, like Israel, is the only country in its region with a working democratic parliament). The president promised Shamir that he would look into the matter and respond to his proposal.

Meeting With Ambassadors

During this time, Foreign Minister Shamir met with all the Israeli ambassadors in Central and South America. He heard from them that the campaign against Israel which began in the wake of the Beirut massacre, is dying out. The ambassadors reported that the United States had worked on the governments of Latin America to assure their opposition to Arab steps to oust Israel from the United Nations and from other international organizations. Foreign Minister Shamir said that he had testimonies that the anti-Israel activity in Latin America has been carried on under the protection of Communist organizations and local Arab associations.

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CSO: 4423/33

DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 286, 25-31 Oct 82 pp 16-17

[Interview with 'Isam Khuri, minister of defense and education, by Hashim Qasim: "We Need an All-Lebanon Army for a United Lebanon; We Must Rid Ourselves of Foreign Troops First; The Militia Question Is of Special Concern." Date and place not specified.]

[Text] He may be the first minister, not just in Lebanon, but in the world, to be given two ministerial portfolios of a contradictory nature, defense and education.

A military establishment and an educational one?

Defense within the framework of the army through strength that protects the borders, establishes sovereignty and preserves security.

Was it ordained that at one time he should take care of the responsibilities of defense within a humanistic framework through education, controlling scientific and educational methods and their admirable programs?

Out of a truth as old as the 8-year war, a generation has grown up that could be called the "war generation." In the midst of its darkness, children have become teenagers and young adults. Even if the war were to stop completely, this generation would find themselves in their ideas and actions facing an authority different from the many that they grew up under, at oft-visited crossroads and facing unfamiliar laws.

We are now discovering astonishing stories about forgery of official seals used to falsify secondary school, university and various government certificates at all levels. But there is no time for details!

Will the two portfolios in Minister 'Isam Khuri's hand mean a comprehensive national defense after the war and practical, educational, humanistic protection for the war generation also after the war?

AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI discussed with the minister with two portfolios the duties which await him on both levels. We asked and he replied, but his replies were confined to a broad outline for the future.

[Question] A short while ago, the defense law was passed, and some of the military objected to certain articles, saying that they weakened the influence of the military and limited its authority. Is there any thought of amending this law?

[Answer] First let me say that I have been in charge of the Ministry of Defense for no more than 2 weeks, and circumstances don't allow me to go into details or specifics. However, the defense law exists to serve the Lebanese military establishment and put its affairs in order, and is not written in stone. If there are serious, reasonable, constructive objections, we will not oppose them, but will try to pass the necessary legislation to safeguard the development and growth of our national military establishment.

[Question] More broadly, can you outline the Lebanese army's policy and plans?

[Answer] The government, lead by H.E. the President, makes army policy. I would describe this policy under four main headings:

1. We want an all-Lebanon army for a united Lebanon.
2. We want a capable, strong army that can counter any spurious calls for freedom, resist outside agents and deter those who are greedy.
3. This great silent one (the army) will be the greatest factor.
4. I want the Lebanese army to be a sharp sword in the hands of those who are devoted to Lebanon to use against its enemies.

[Question] Who is the enemy of the army?

[Answer] Anyone who is an enemy of Lebanon.

[Question] Can you be more specific?

[Answer] Enemies can be from inside the country or from abroad, but better a thousand enemies outside the house than one inside. The Lebanese must be aware of their responsibilities, stick together and close their ranks so that the enemy outside cannot get in.

[Question] Can it be said that the army has three tasks—internal security, external defense and growth (under the present circumstances)?

[Answer] In the past, the army was an example to all other national institutions as far as discipline, order and integrity. We want to keep this up.

Right now we must turn to the army to establish security and restore calm. I believe that the army's greatest task is to help implement the security plan. When we talk about building up the army and developing its individual institutions, certain priorities stand out:

1. The ability of the army to preserve and help extend the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.
2. Forming and equipping the army to make it a force capable of protecting our nation's borders.

Serving the Flag

[Question] National service, or the draft, is a big help in building national strength and at the same time solving many internal problems. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Answer] We will give it the attention it requires.

[Question] Will the national service law be passed and issued?

[Answer] There is no disagreement on this issue—the problem is our ability [to carry it out].

[Question] For some months, the army has taken successful steps, entering Beirut and disarming it. It received a warm welcome when it entered West Beirut. However, after a while, opposition appeared which centered on house searches and the actions of some individuals. This has caused some to voice their negative reactions through criticism. What do you say about this?

[Answer] Anyone who doesn't make mistakes doesn't do anything. Every positive step usually has some shortcoming. However, some of the broad opposition may not be based on facts, and some may be merely accusations. God forgive them because we understand, and we know the exact worth of those who sing and talk of freedom. What is the value of this freedom if the country has no calm and stability? I say, if we actually want to preserve freedom, we must eliminate the reasons for the disaster at the roots, the reasons for our misfortune which paralyze daily life. Imagine an entire city built on depots, tunnels and caves filled with all different kinds of weapons. It is a strange thing in a nation that wants to regain its vigor, sovereignty and legitimacy.

[Question] I referred in my question to a relationship which has always been unnatural. By this I mean that some Lebanese factions have played the role of opposition to the army, and new circumstances have come along that would allow a positive relationship between the army establishment and these factions. Is there any thought of establishing a relationship exactly like that between the French or the British and their armies? What would be the basis for this?

[Answer] There is a national awakening. However, consensus is not one of the laws of this life. Everyone is aware that we need to have a strong, capable army. The relationship between an army and the citizens is a result of a unified vision as to purpose, result and outcome. When we are all convinced that we are working for Lebanon, and that the army is for all of Lebanon, we will have taken the necessary step, not to establish such a relationship, but to have achieved it.

Fate of the Militias

[Question] Not long ago, a proposal to strengthen the army was given wide play. One of its features was breaking up the militias and annexing them to the national military establishment. What has happened to this proposal?

[Answer] There are many armed forces, some foreign and some Lebanese, on Lebanese territory. We have to work toward getting rid of the foreign forces first. The issue of the militias is one of the issues that the government and the ministry of defense will give special attention so that the legitimate authorities can regain their complete power. Carrying out the security plan and expanding the army's deployment area will make the legitimate authorities the only one to extend their control over Lebanese territory.

The question, firstly and lastly, is one of brotherly relations among the people of this nation. Going into details is premature since this issue is one that requires study by the president and the government.

[Question] Being the minister of national education, you have now inherited a complicated legacy of problems that hinder the operation of cleaning out the ministry. Some educational institutions have broken up because of these problems, and the education level has dropped. There has also been criticism directed at the mechanics of the educational profession, the level of production and the destruction affecting official educational institutions because of the war. Within this framework, what is the outline of your future educational program?

[Answer] We must not forget that we are coming out of a war that lasted 8 years and that our responsibilities are great. However, I will work through the ministry's organizations and institutions to build a sound national direction in education, specifically one that will build a well-rounded Lebanese individual.

[Question] Is it possible to build the Lebanese individual with the tools and abilities we have now?

[Answer] We will modernize, build or establish anything that will help realize the desired goal.

[Question] I go back to elementary school, where the problem of education arises and persists. There is an administrative and educational bureaucracy of 20,000 people. However, we do not find an educational or instructional yield commensurate with this number of employees or the aspirations to which I referred. I'm talking about the confusion, disorder and unrest that affect direction, effectiveness and results. Can we overcome this and build a progressive standard elementary education for all Lebanese without exception?

[Answer] Your views may cause fear. However, I am optimistic and determined to do all that is in my power to make the efforts necessary to establish advanced, progressive standard schools. I will offer to cooperate with all the employees of this ministry--directors, administrators, professors and teachers.

[Question] How do you think this can be done?

[Answer] Working in the ministry of education is just like working in any other ministry subject to public opinion. When we work in the right atmosphere, work and implementation are easier. Every step must be preceded by study and planning. I am not calling for miracles, but we will begin work on two things that deserve our attention: giving official exams involving more than 50,000 students and welcoming the new school year, which requires great efforts. What is important now is to lessen the effect of giving the exams next year.

[Question] Don't you think that building on mistakes will cause us more problems, that rebuilding our nation is a constant challenge toward a single direction--that is, beginning in the schools?

[Answer] This is a very important question. For this reason, we are thinking about establishing active participation in Lebanese schools by concentrating on civic instruction in all grades, modernizing programs to keep up with the latest scientific developments and developing our educational methods...

[Question] Some find that merely teaching civics is not enough; they believe that we need a new, multi-dimensional formula for the Lebanese educational system.

[Answer] Your ambitions are those of the Lebanese people. However, the task of making changes and improving the field of education is not in the hands of one official. I can't do anything without the participation all the beneficent organizations and institutions concerned, every Lebanese individual and every Lebanese family.

[Question] In the last few years, conditions were created in Lebanese universities that contribute to the branching out of the universities' institutes and colleges, giving rise to nepotism and increased expenditures. Moreover, the academic level in some of the branches deteriorated, and they became separate entities for science, culture and politics. What can you do to develop the universities and restore their structure?

[Answer] These things that you referred to will disappear when our country regains its vigor and its role. There will be no one in the universities who does not meet the necessary academic educational specifications and requirements. The question of this branching out is all in the university records, which we will open to the public after we have studied them.

9882

CSO: 4404/66

MINISTER SHAYKHANI DISCUSSES ACTIVITIES OF INFORMATION, JUSTICE MINISTRIES

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1359, 19 Nov 82 p 17

[Interview with Roger Shaykhani, minister of information and justice;
"Minister Roger Shaykhani: We Are To Lebanize Information and Restore
Judiciary"]

[Text] Roger Shaykhani, the minister of information and justice, divides his workhours equally between the two ministries he holds, giving the first 3 days a week and the second 3 days a week. The minister, who has moved from the chairmanship of the Lawyers Union to the first cabinet under the reign of President Amin al-Jumayyil, is aware of the dimensions of the work awaiting him at two ministries that are connected with the people's daily life and their numerous problems and issues at this time of Lebanese transformation from the "state of war" to the "state of peace."

Minister Shaykhani has raised the slogan of "truth" as his work slogan at the Ministry of Information and the slogan of "right" as his work slogan at the Ministry of Justice. Both truth and right are a means of establishing the justice that Minister Shaykhani has sought as a lawyer and as the lawyer's doyen. Here is he now seeking to achieve this justice through his new governmental tasks. This is why he is focusing at present on restoring life to the judiciary body and efficiency to the information apparatus, both of which he is supervising and managing.

This interview, for which Minister Shaykhani chose his residence as the site a few days before President al-Jumayyil's visit to Morocco and which took place after official workhours, was conducted within the framework of the two ministries--information and justice. But the interview began with a quick evaluation of President al-Jumayyil's international tour. Minister Shaykhani believes that the tour has resulted in part in enlightening world public opinion as to the true situation in Lebanon. He also believes that the tour "will enable us to restore Lebanon's activity in full and to establish Lebanese law and sovereignty over the 10,542 square kilometers that were dear to the heart of the late President Bashir al-Jumayyil and are dear to the heart of every Lebanese."

[Question] But when will this sovereignty be restored and how long will this take?

[Answer] In my view, it is unlikely that this will take long. It must be done quickly, especially since it has become evident to us after President Amin al-Jumayyil's foreign tour that everyone, including the Arabs, wants to help us regain sovereignty over every inch of our land. If you read the UN resolutions, it will become absolutely and decisively obvious to you that these resolutions give us power over our territory. Thus, there can be no discussion on the issue from the legal standpoint. What remains is the practical aspect, meaning that the state establish its control over every inch beyond this [practical] control. This is realistic and the state hopes that it will regain its sovereignty as soon as possible.

[Question] When you took over the Ministry of Information, you said that the symbol of your information policy will be "telling the truth." How can this truth be preserved in a complex Lebanese information situation?

[Answer] The issue is two-sided. There is first Lebanese information, which we must Lebanize. When the information is Lebanized, there will be no problem because the Ministry of Information will have to tell the truth. Every journalist will then have the freedom to interpret. Private opinion is not tied to the real situation. When the Ministry of Information is asked about a certain issue, it will be content to tell the truth as it happens. As to how this truth is interpreted, every individual has the freedom to interpret. What is required is that it be interpreted in a Lebanese manner first.

The other side is the world information media. We will also tell this side the truth as it is, and it will interpret it as it wishes. This is why I held a press conference for foreign correspondents after taking over the Ministry of Information. I wanted to make it clear to the entire world that democracy is master in Lebanon, that the law is a master, that we are masters on our soil and that our purpose and intention is to apply our law on our land, as every citizen and every statesman in each country wants. Had the violations experienced by our country been experienced by any other country, martial law would perhaps have been declared. But we and their excellencies the president of the republic and the prime minister wished to continue on the sound democratic path. This means that any arrest or any inspection for arms, munitions or anything else is carried out in accordance with Lebanese law, i.e., on the instructions and orders of the judiciary authority of the military court. This is why, when I held the press conference, I had next to me the military prosecutor general who was issuing inspection, arrest and detention warrants to cover the legal aspect of the security plan that the Lebanese state has decided to enact in order to protect the safety of the Lebanese people in particular. You know and have been closely familiar with the enormous quantities of weapons and munitions hidden under Beirut's roof. These quantities, prompted an officer to say: We should hang a "no smoking" sign all over Beirut for fear a cigarette may blow it up.

[Question] As long as we are talking about security, there is a plan for greater Beirut. The major part of this plan has been implemented. What remains is the eastern areas. A lot has been said about the causes of this delay. What is the truth in this regard?

[Answer] Our problems in Lebanon are legion. To tell the truth, security in the eastern area is not uncontrolled. But it is beyond the control of the legitimate military authority. The judiciary authority is present everywhere, both in East and in West Beirut. Moreover, now that the security plan for the western area is almost completed and the people are reassured, the security and army forces are entering the eastern areas gradually. You can actually see this on the ground. The army is deployed along the Damascus Road and its roadblocks perform inspection duties. It is certain that this cannot be done in 24 hours or in 3 days. The process requires planning and time.

[Question] It is also said at the Ministry of Information that whoever enters the ministry is lost and whoever leaves it is reborn. How would you describe the situation in this ministry?

[Answer] Regrettably, numerous violations were committed throughout 8 years, not only in the Ministry of Information but also in many of the state agencies. It is possible that these violations have been greater at the Ministry of Information than in other agencies because the ministry law permits contracting persons who may not be confirmed or permanent ministry employees. This is why violations have been committed. I hope that a list of the contract employees and of those dealing with the ministry will be prepared. Those who produce in the service of the country are welcome and the services of those who do not produce will certainly be terminated because the wages collected by these employees are paid by the people.

[Question] Sooner or later, the state will confront the illegal private media--press, radio and, to a degree, television. What is the government's position on this problem?

[Answer] You probably think that you are pressing me with this question. But in fact, the question does not press me. I am a man of law and when you tell me to apply the law I feel pleased. But if the law doesn't please us, then we can change it. The Chamber of Deputies has the right to legislate. Therefore, it can, for example, take legislative decree No 104 or legislative decree No 1, which gives public security the power to censor the press, and amend them. The Chamber's power is absolute insofar as Lebanese legislation is concerned. I, as an executive authority, am compelled to implement whatever legislation is issued by the Chamber of Deputies.

[Question] You are a former lawyers' doyen and a brilliant lawyer; what are the problems experienced by the Ministry of Justice?

[Answer] Regrettably, for 8 years and because of the events and the lack of security, there has been a kind of laziness in litigation. Therefore, the judicial body needs to be revitalized. I must admit that I have found goodwill among all the judges I have met with since taking over the Ministry of Justice. It is true that goodwill is not enough but the way to turn this goodwill into action is open. I hope that the judiciary will resume their normal march within a period of no more than 3 months. I am thinking of inaugurating the judicial year, as happened before 1975, so that we can prove to the people and to the Lebanese litigant that the judiciary is present and can issue its sentences in the name of the Lebanese people, meaning that every

Lebanese can attain his right without any violation and without the use of violence, which the Lebanese hate. I am now in the process of preparing a bill to raise the recompense of Lebanese summoners. Why? Because the summoner's transportation allowance is perhaps no longer adequate. We will raise this allowance and then we can bring him to account for any negligence that may occur. This will be done within a month.

As for the courts, the minister of public works visited me at the Palace of Justice to see where we need quick and urgent repairs so that he can issue his instructions for repairs to be made. As for furniture, we have agreed with the Civil Service Commission that it fulfill the commitments it proposed to refurnish the judges' offices and the courtrooms.

[Question] The country's current situation imposes the following question: Can the judicial wheel turn normally at a time when some Lebanese areas are still beyond state control?

[Answer] What is to prevent this? At present, there are arrests in Beirut. What shall I do with the detainees? Shouldn't I apply the law to them? At present, the state authority is established over a certain part of this homeland. Should I forget this part under the pretext that I cannot apply the law in another part? Sound and logical thinking says that I must apply the law where I can. We hope that we will be able to apply the law over all Lebanese territory soon, very soon.

8494

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AFRAM DISCUSSES TELEPHONE, MAIL SERVICES, INDUSTRIAL FUTURE

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 288, 14 Nov 82 pp 18-19

[Interview with George Afram, minister of industry and post by Hashim Qasim; "George Afram, minister of Industry and Post: I Ask for Citizens' Confidence for a While; We Must Surpass State of the Farm, Faction, Sect, Province and Political Shop"]

[Text] The view of George Afram, minister of post, telecommunications, industry and oil in the official administration, is embodied in the aspirations of the businessman and in the gist of his experience, and he is a man with special experience.

Because the minister seems determined to introduce modern work methods into the two ministries, he is in a race and a gamble. It is a race because with its work mechanism, its movement and the nature of its presence, the private establishment is different from the official establishment. It is a gamble because modernizing the administration in two important ministries and transferring modern and advanced management principles to an official administrative structure that has inherited immobile, and even unproductive, traditions and customs--because modernization and transfer are two important things.

So, between the race imposed on Lebanon so that it can assume a modern image in management, organization and efficiency and the gamble on success stands Minister George Afram, striving, aspiring and optimistic in his dialogue with AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI.

Here is the interview:

[Question] You have managed successful industrial and economic establishments. Is it your intention to transfer some of their beneficial and productive work methods to the two ministries of industry and oil and post and telecommunications?

[Answer] This is in fact the challenge facing me. I fear the responsibility and its weight. But my faith in God gives me hope for success. I may perhaps answer this question in 3 months after the period of trying and testing. Moreover, the transfer of new methods of work into the Lebanese administration under the second republic is an urgent requirement.

[Question] Do you think that the structure of the official administration is capable, despite its weakness, of responding to the new methods?

[Answer] The Lebanese who has succeeded in the private sector is also the Lebanese who is present, as raw material, in the public sector. If we proceed on the basis of this concept, then changing the work methods of the employee in the official administration will lead to positive results. As for the principles and methods, they are the ones contained in the science of modern management. This will greatly help me in the light of my practical experience because I have already applied these methods in the private establishments I have founded and managed. Moreover, my success has always emanated from a profound faith in man as a fundamental element in building and developing establishments.

Telephone Crisis

[Question] Despite the efforts exerted to improve the telephone network, the crisis still exists. Do you have the means to solve the problem?

[Answer] Since assuming my duties, my goal has been to form a working team between me and the ministry officials. God be thanked, I believe we are on the right track and we are making progress daily. This is because I believe in real participation, which is axiomatic in modern management. This method must be adopted in the official establishments if we want to build them on advanced bases. The principle of participation perhaps solves the problems. The burden is heavy and the people cannot wait any longer and are not ready to accept new delays. They want deeds, not words. There is resentment insofar as the telephone situation is concerned. This is why I ask the people to give the ministry 3 months during which they will see improvement. We will work to repair the damages in each area separately and in phases. This will be done throughout Lebanon. This is the focus of our thinking in the second republic. This means that we will go beyond the framework of organizing the affairs of the neighborhood and the quarter to formulating a comprehensive national concept.

As a citizen, I have suffered from waiting and I ask the Lebanese citizen to give us his confidence for a while. We are at the inception of the peace phase and of the legitimate authority's restoration of its power over all Lebanese territory.

The new mentality must be established on two principles: a scientific view and an ethical and national position that safeguards the public interest. We must all surpass the state of the farm, the faction, the sect, the province and the political shop.

For Us and Against Us

[Question] Will the state structure, with its present establishments, help to crystallize this transformational view?

[Answer] I believe in the Lebanese human element. We must help the public establishment employee develop his abilities and capabilities.

[Question] Shall we return to dealing with the telephone problem?

[Answer] The recent military battles have had their impact on the telephone network. Some central offices have been destroyed or damaged (al-Awza'i and the Bi'r Hasan equipment). We are aware of this problem and we are exerting efforts to restore things to normal. In fact, we have begun to prepare executive programs to be implemented by the ministry agencies with the participation of some foreign countries, in addition to assistance and expertise to be offered by foreign technicians.

We have made requests to France, the United States and Italy and we have felt response on their part. We will exert efforts to cooperate with the technical missions of these countries. A measure of the serious nature of the effort and of the degree of its success will become evident when the citizen is able to pick up the receiver and speak without delay and without impediments, exactly as in the advanced countries, such as the United States and Canada.

[Question] There are reports about the arrival of a French commission.

[Answer] A five-member commission will arrive and study the area we will designate for it. A team of technicians will be then formed to supervise rehabilitation of the network in the designated area. At a later stage, we will devote our attention to installing new lines. The first step is to repair what is there so that the pressure on the central offices will be eliminated. To put it simply, it is enough for us now to give the citizen a useful telephone line that "doesn't give him a heart attack."

[Question] What is your view of the reports circulating about a plan to contract a private firm to operate the telephone network?

[Answer] I am surprised by this question. This issue is out of the question and we will not discuss it. Our attention will focus on forming a successful work team in the ministry, on enhancing the ministry's performance and on changing the civil servant's image and his relationship with the Lebanese citizen. The telephone employee must regain his dignity and the citizen should appreciate his sacrifices and his work.

[Question] The piled up mail, the postal parcels and the closed district and governorate offices--is there a solution to these issues and problems?

[Answer] At present, we are working to equip a temporary mail center at the airport and we hope the center will be opened in the third week of this month. When work is initiated there, the citizen will see an improvement in mail delivery.

[Question] What about the other parts of Lebanon?

[Answer] Mail delivery in the provinces will take place gradually and in phases. I would like to note that the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications devotes great attention to the mail because it is a symbol of progress. We will never approach it as a second-class issue. This is why we are conducting a comprehensive study to organize mail in Lebanon by establishing a most advanced electronic sorting center at the airport. We hope that the executive program for this study will be ready in the second half of 1983.

[Question] Can what you are projecting be applied to the other ministries generally?

[Answer] The elements present in the Lebanese cabinet form a harmonious and integrated work team. We are the generation of the independence period and not the generation that lived under Turkish rule and in the French mandate period.

Industry Hurt Most

[Question] The war has inflicted extensive damage on the industrial establishments, thus leading to the industrial sector's deterioration and to the emergence of major problems, such as the difficulty of financing, of rehabilitating the factories, of marketing, of transportation and of energy. Can Lebanese industry's problems be dealt with in light of the above-mentioned four points?

[Answer] I believe in Lebanon's industrial future, despite the difficulties existing as a result of the latest war.

The industrial sector has sustained greater damage than the other sectors, keeping in mind that it had been the strongest sector and the one contributing most to the national income. Despite this, it has remained the firmest sector. After a war lasting 8 years, the Lebanese industrialist has gained new capabilities and broader resources for innovation and adaptation, meaning that this industrialist has emerged from a training course that will give him greater momentum and productivity when peace and stability prevail.

What is required for industrial activity at present is industrial financing. We should not deal with this sector on the basis of a commercial mentality and commercial financing. We have been thinking with a mercantile mentality and not with the idea that we are building a homeland. Within this framework, industry has been borrowing like a merchant. This is the ultimate in backwardness. Industrial investment requires the employment of long-range financing at low interest rates. This means that the banks should not continue to finance industrial projects as if they were financing commercial projects.

Faithful Industrialists

[Question] Under the canopy of an economic structure geared toward services, don't you think this is hard to achieve?

[Answer] No, it is a question of a prevailing mentality. The Lebanese banking sector can provide this [financing] if some amendments are introduced, including an amendment to article 102 of the currency law.

[Question] Will you be exerting efforts to amend this article and others obstructing the long-range development process?

[Answer] Whatever hampers this process will be amended. But at the same time, we must set up an industrial development fund to supply the industrialist with the equivalent of 50 percent of the investment value through long-range and low-interest loans.

As for the damaged factories, we must assist them. There are Lebanese industrialists who believe in their homeland and they are ready to rebuild their plants and want no reparations for their losses. (The minister indicated at this juncture the owners of the (Sipes) factory, the drinking glasses factory belonging to the Subrah family and the Standard Plastic Factory belonging to the 'Abd al-Baqi family, saying:) They belong to the young generation, and they are determined to rebuild their factories in a better way.

To put it briefly, the means to solve this problem require the amendment of article 102 of the currency law and the establishment of cooperation between the Bank of Lebanon and the other banks. But this will not obviate the need to set up an industrial development fund, which is the right project required for true industrial development.

[Question] Does the Ministry of Industry plan to pay some compensation to the hurt industrialists?

[Answer] The hurt Lebanese industrialist has asked for nothing other than financing. As for the problem of marketing, there should be no fear as far as the Lebanese industrialist is concerned. He has enough experience to produce competitive goods, which he can export. As a state, we must devote the necessary attention to transportation and to the means of communication and must facilitate the beneficial use of these means in the industrial sphere. If we can provide these requirements, then I am confident of the industrialist's ability to confront the hardships. (I look forward to) a future Lebanese industry that will serve the homeland and not be dependent on the homeland and on society.

Rural Factories

[Minister Afram added:] The Lebanese industry has broad horizons for expansion and growth and the industrialist must help spread industrial development in all parts of the country by stopping the building of factories around the cities "because this is a shame." We must move our factories to the villages and to the rural areas where labor is found and so that we do not build new belts of misery around the capital. Our factories must move to the south, the north and al-Biqā' to create a united homeland with a balanced growth.

[Question] And what about transportation?

[Answer] I believe the new mentality of the second republic will work for all of Lebanon and that the highway network will be studied as a complete unit and implemented as a complete unit.

[Question] This is an aspiration?

[Answer] It is necessary to achieve and implement this aspiration, or else the blood of 100,000 martyrs will go to waste.

[Question] The energy problem is intensifying. Are there any solutions?

[Answer] There are new areas for progress. Attention must be devoted to making use of projects to generate energy from water. This is why we must restudy al-Yammunah project and others and must exert efforts to bolster the oil refineries so that the cost will be economical. We must also encourage projects to use solar energy. Generally, we must improve hydraulic energy and ways to benefit from it, considering that this energy has become economical as a result of the rising oil prices.

[Question] As a result of the recent war, some Israeli industrial goods are now competing with national commodities in some areas of Lebanon. Is there a solution to this problem?

[Answer] This problem will be dealt with when our country is liberated and when we regain our sovereignty and independence. For now, the solution is to endure and resist. There is hope of imminent relaxation, especially in the wake of President Amin al-Jumayyil's return from his successful tour to the United States, France, Italy and the Vatican.

8494

CSO: 4404/109

POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING STRONG ARMY VIEWED OPTIMISTICALLY

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1359, 19 Nov 82 pp 81-85

[Article by Amin al-Siba'i: "Army Means Unification, Anything Else Means Partition; Army's Safety Requires Keeping Army Clear of Politicians' Conflicts; Strengthening It Requires Naval Fleet; Fundamental Changes in Command and Tasks; Rebuilding Depends on Loans and Aid"]

[Text] The largest dossier carried by President Amin al-Jumayyil during his visit last month to the capitals of the major powers and to the UN General Assembly was that on the Lebanese Army.

The contents of the dossier are known to almost all observers of developments in the Lebanese war.

The most important content is the emphasis on determining the army's needs for power and Lebanon's need for a powerful army.

President Amin al-Jumayyil, who supervised preparation of the army dossier, is one of a group of politicians who lived with and experienced the developments that began with the events of 1969, which at the time produced the Cairo agreement that was signed on behalf of Lebanon by Gen Emile al-Bustani, a former army commander. Then came the 1973 events in fact constituting the beginning of the internal collapse and the war that flared up in 1975 and has continued to the present, leading, among other things, to the disintegration and fragmentation of the military establishment.

Therefore, President al-Jumayyil did not feel divorced from the army issue while supervising the final touches for the army dossier that he carried with him as a basic issue during his tour, during which he talked of Lebanon's need for a strong, capable and national army in his address to the UN General Assembly in New York.

President al-Jumayyil, in cooperation with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and Army Commander Victor Khuri, has also been eager to solidify the state's determination to rely on the army as a legitimate force to which there is no alternative. He did so before embarking on his tour in several steps that he approved and whose implementation he supervised, including:

First, immediately upon assuming power, the president initiated a plan to Lebanize security within the so-called "greater Beirut plan" and handed over to the army control of all streets, quarters and vital utilities in Beirut and its environs.

Second, he proceeded from the palace to the Beirut military command, rejected from there all the bases of the campaign aimed against the army's mission in Beirut and told the high-ranking officers and military investigators that the political authority trusts nobody other than the army and that it refuses to link the principled decision to assign the army as the government's arm with campaigns casting doubts, objections and complaints.

Third, he established a fundamental link between the need for the rapid rebuilding of the army and of expanding the sphere of its deployment on the one hand and the decision adopted by the political authority urging the international community to end the occupation of Lebanon and demanding departure of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory on the other hand.

Fourth, he dealt with the gaps and violations with a swiftness that did not undermine morale. This is what was done before the president's tour of the Western countries, with an eagerness to avoid the disciplinary measures that are taken in any army in the world so that they could not be turned into material for political conflict or oneupmanship.

Fifth, he settled the problem of the sectarian clashes that erupted in some Mount Lebanon villages by implementing a plan that puts the province under army control and requires the other armed forces, led by the Israeli Army, to retreat, withdraw and leave the arena to the legitimate authority.

President Amin al-Jumayyil says that the state has never been strong when the army was not united. The army is the backbone of the state and "the legitimate army alone is capable of unifying, whereas every illegal armed force, Lebanese or otherwise, is a cause of partition. Only the legitimate army is capable of liberating the land and the citizen, whereas any illegal armed force is a justification or an excuse for occupation or domination. We want a strong army and we want the army to be the only armed force on Lebanon's soil. The army we want is the army that dictates its terms to all and not the army to which everybody's terms are dictated. The army we want is the army that is present everywhere, not just in a part of the homeland. There are no restricted areas or prohibited missions obstructing this army. The army we want is the nation's army, the people's army, the army of all of Lebanon, from all of Lebanon and in all Lebanon."

What is the condition and what are the capabilities of the army that the events, developments and Israeli occupation required to proceed to the domestic arena at the urgent request of the Lebanese, the army that surmounted, or rather leaped over in its "response," all barriers, objections and prior conditions?

When the Chamber of Deputies elected Bashir al-Jumayyil president of the republic, a number of foreign correspondents asked him a number of questions about his position on the issue of using the army.

President Bashir al-Jumayyil's answer was the same, namely, that the question of the army's sovereignty and authority is absolutely indisputable, that any doubts cast on the army's role are firmly rejected and that all of Lebanon's doors must be opened to this army without any conditions because conditions under the difficult and fateful circumstances are a stab in Lebanon's back. The concept of the army is to safeguard independence and to impose security, even if it is compelled to wage unequal battles and even if the calculations of such battles are not in the army's favor.

When President Amin al-Jumayyil assumed his responsibilities, he moved immediately to apply or translate these axioms into field decisions applied on the spot without any delay.

The president opened the army dossier when the multi-national forces were asked to return to Beirut to take part with the Lebanese Army and with the internal security forces in controlling the security situation.

Some officials say in reply to the question on the reasons for seeking the help of the international forces, considering that various citizen groups have agreed on the demand for deployment of the army, that the army at present is not considered capable of meeting the street security needs, that even though the army numbers nearly 25,000 officers and soldiers, the equipped and trained elements capable of moving and establishing control do not exceed one-fifth the total and that equipping them with medium and heavy equipment requires a series of successive courses, each lasting perhaps no less than 9 months.

These officials have said that everyone should understand the situation should not exaggerate and saddle the army with a heavier burden than it can shoulder and that the insistence in stressing the need for the army's presence should not be a cause for disappointment and for shaking the confidence without which the government cannot get firmly on its feet.

After a comprehensive investigation of army conditions, it has become clear to AL-HAWADITH that this answer is neither accurate nor realistic and that, therefore, it does not stem from a sound knowledge of the conditions of the military establishment.

In a special interview conducted with a number of prominent officials who are supposed to be well-informed on army conditions, it has become evident that the strength of Lebanese Army elements is no more than 23,000 officers and soldiers and that the army is divided organizationally into two sections or two well-known military concepts: The combat battalions and units section. This section is present within the framework of this concept because the combat battalions and units are organized, even though lacking in numbers.

Within the framework of these cadres, trained elements are present and personal and light and medium weapons are available.

As for the second section namely, the section pertaining to supplying the army with heavy weapons and with extensive combat capabilities, discussion is currently under way on how to finish organizing it with aid and with the purchase and training contracts concluded between Lebanon and some friendly capitals.

The army's ground, air and naval needs are needs for which every army, regardless of how strong, aspires because they constitute the means for its continued superiority. But these needs cannot be considered a shortcoming that prevents entrusting the army with tasks compatible with its resources.

At its present level, the army certainly needs to modernize its air force. This development includes the purchase of modern aircraft and radar equipment, overhauling the aircraft presently possessed by the army, including the nine Mirage aircraft, and training pilots and assisting crews with modern air fighting methods.

The army also needs to modernize its naval force because the Lebanese coastline extends 200 kilometers from north to south. In modern states, it is unacceptable that the naval forces be incapable of providing the minimum conditions and elements of coastal control and it is also unacceptable that these forces be incapable of closing the illegal ports, as happened under some difficult circumstances in the past.

There are problems stemming from contracts concluded in the past for the purchase of some naval equipment for the army. These contracts have not been implemented and the state must hasten to settle them so that it can open a new page in supplying the Lebanese Navy with modern equipment.

As for the Lebanese Army's ground forces, their urgent demands are numerous, beginning with the necessity of raising the strength from 23,000 officers and men to no less than 50,000, implementing the military service law, which puts all capable Lebanese under arms and acquiring, as is expected, all kinds of equipment and machinery, including troop carriers, tanks, tracked vehicles, heavy weapons, missiles and antiaircraft weapons.

The officials with this information say that when discussing this issue, a distinction must be made between the Lebanese Army's needs for all aspects of development and its current capability to safeguard internal security. The army needs a lot of equipping before it is asked to fight the Israeli Army and expel it from Lebanon. But this same army, and until its growth and training is complete, can at present and at any time spread its legitimate authority over all Lebanese territory, provided that the decision that has to be taken by the political authority in this regard is taken.

These officials also say that when the army is ordered to proceed to the internal arena, the background to this decision will rely on a political climate embodied in the belief of all parties that the army's task must be facilitated because it cannot destroy West Beirut to enter it, as the Israeli Army did. The army is this homeland's son and before the rifle, this army's weapon is the weapon of helping the citizens. Therefore, the task of the tens of armed battalions that an army like the Israeli Army needs to enter Beirut can be achieved by a single company of the Lebanese Army, without any destruction and with the approval and support of the citizens. Therefore, the issue cannot be one of numbers, equipment and heavy weapons. Rather, it is the issue of a political decision based on national calculations and consensus.

It has been said in this discussion that several hundred elements of the internal security forces and a similar number of assisting army elements are enough to control security in Beirut and that, for example, the army elements present in Tripoli are enough to establish security there, if the proper climate is created. The Lebanese Army is prepared and capable, within the framework of this concept, of carrying out whatever is asked of it.

Regarding development, a high-ranking officer has said that the army organization law passed by the Chamber of Deputies and implemented a few years ago contains a provision calling for increasing Lebanese Army strength to 40,000. This figure does not include the Lebanese recruited under the military service law. This increase has formed in the army law a link to defense policy [as published]. This decision was based at the time on a study saying that a country like Lebanon with a population of 4 million is supposed to have an army of no less than 40,000 troops under any circumstances and that the Lebanese people are supposed to participate with all their resources to have such an army. The state is also supposed to perform this duty.

It has been said that the financial costs are considered burdensome under the difficult conditions experienced by Lebanon. But with the presence of a capable state government, such a burden no longer exists.

Financial estimates say that the annual budget of a country like Lebanon should be 16 billion Lebanese pounds.

Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, the former minister of finance, once told the parliamentary committees that the state budget, which did not amount to 8 billion pounds annually, was a deficient budget and that it should not have been less than 13 billion pounds, had it not been for the large-scale smuggling and evasive acts regarding taxes, fees, customs and basic materials were concerned.

When the state budget reaches 16 billion pounds, it becomes the right of those who formulate state policy to allocate 25 percent of the budget, i.e., 4 billion pounds, for building a strong army comprising 40,000 troops. When this sum becomes available, the army's condition, both in terms of numbers and equipment, can be developed. At the level of the human element, the practice of volunteering can be broadened by encouraging material inducements and incentives and by implementing the military service law. In this respect, the media shoulder the responsibility of public mobilization, which urges the citizen to volunteer.

As for equipment, the state can conclude long-term contracts with the friendly countries to purchase various kinds of weapons that accord in this respect with whatever aid the Arab, European and American countries can offer.

The military official said that the Americans can cooperate with the French and some other countries to finance a cohesive annual plan to supply the army with weapons and training. The Arab countries can also offer such a contribution, even if they are content with just fulfilling the commitments approved by the 1980 Arab summit in Tunis--commitments calling for advancing \$2 billion in aid to Lebanon. So far, only one-quarter of the sum has been received.

The capable Arab countries can also finance the deals to purchase weapons for the Lebanese Army with loans having well-known conditions for repayment, collection and interest.

The official added that there will be no need to levy a special tax on the citizen to finance this plan because the normal revenues to finance the budget are present, provided that each Lebanese believes that his country cannot achieve stability unless it has an intrinsic force capable of safeguarding this stability and that the individual's interest prospers when the country's freedom is protected. The civil war is the latest proof of this.

This official summed up what is required of the state and of the citizen to build the army in several points, including:

1. Increasing the general budget.
2. Aid.
3. Loans.
4. One-quarter of the budget for the army.
5. Allocating part of the development monies for the army.
6. Diverting the yet unpaid aid to a fund for financing a plan to build a strong army.

Added to this is the need to make the citizen understand that the current phase is a critical phase, that he must help establish security, must learn from experience and must know that the army's deployment in Beirut has shown that the capital of Lebanon, with its civilian population and without security, lived on an enormous cache of explosives and amidst groups who violated the law and came to Beirut because they had no place, not even in their own homeland. The citizen must also understand that without the army's help, he cannot get the liberties he is demanding.

This official told a WASHINGTON POST reporter who brought up the issue of liberties in Beirut: We are the seekers of freedom; the army will die for the sake of individual liberties and our eagerness for freedom lies behind the measures we are implementing.

Along with the attention devoted to rebuilding the army, efforts are now being exerted in Lebanon to avoid the extraordinary circumstances and the mistakes that led to the fragmentation of the army at the outset of the internal war.

After the fragmentation, the army went through a comprehensive rebuilding process formulated in 1977.

A study conducted by Maj 'Atif Turbiyah says that at the outset of 1977 the army was disintegrated, fragmented and lacking unity of command, organization and equipment and that as of April 1977 the new command had to begin assessing the extent of the losses suffered by the military establishment and to formulate a plan of rescue, building and organization.

The building process passed through several stages:

First stage: Regrouping and restoring national balance to the command. The command elements had to be reorganized, from the appointment of a chief of staff to the appointment of officers to the various command branches and agencies. This task was very delicate and fraught with danger. The regrouping started with the establishment of joint training camps in al-Yarzah in contrast to the actual situation, which was inclined toward the formation of two, rather than one, armies. It was then possible to move to recruitment, to set up the cadets [al-aghrar] training camp and to subject everyone to basic military education during which the regrouping experiment took root and succeeded.

In the second stage, the military sectors created by the trying circumstances were abolished and replaced by military districts, regiments and battalions in an important organizational and military step to regroup the army and restore to it the pyramidal command structure. Within a few months, the commands of the five military districts and many of the regiments and battalions under their control were formed.

In the third phase, a new army regulation was issued in accordance with legislative decree No 10 of 1978, which empowers the army commander to establish special and general military regulations and instructions on a complete scientific and modern basis with the aim of insuring the unity and cohesion of the command and the soundness of decisions.

In subsequent stages, the process of equipping, arming, training and distributing the tasks and of deployment in some locations under the hardest and most difficult conditions was begun.

In March 1979, the law on army organization was issued after difficult work and hard parliamentary, political and military debates. This law introduced the four main defense establishments, namely: the army, the General Administration Directorate, the Inspector General and the Higher Defense Council's General Secretariat.

No important law issued in Lebanon or elsewhere aroused the discussion that the defense law aroused. Some voices rose to reject this law or some of its provisions and other voices rejected the principle of employing the army's help unless a national balance was first established in the army and unless a clear defense policy and a sound national line were set for it.

The discussions, continuing to the present, led to a freeze on most provisions of the defense law and to ex-President Ilyas Sarkis' rejection of the principle of deploying the army internally by force for fear of surprises against it. President Sarkis at the time raised the slogan of "no army without mutual consent and no security without detente."

Dr. Salim al-Huss, the prime minister during whose term in office the army law was approved, has said:

The law was promulgated fundamentally with the logic of preserving sectarianism in the army. The call for abolishing sectarianism in the military establishment got no support. This is why the debates on the law in the parliamentary committees were extremely sharp, especially when matters concerned the powers of the army commander and the Military Council.

Dr al-Huss adds that the law was born an orphan and was tantamount to a sectarian settlement that no party felt was in his interest. He adds that with the promulgation of the law, the battle over the executive decrees erupted. This battle ended with new compromises, thus eliciting even greater reservations about the law. The provisions issued have not been implemented in important respects. All this affirms that the issue is largely tied to the general political problem because the details would not assume the importance attached to them if the country lived under a climate of political understanding. In the people's view, the real touchstone for the army is action, especially since some past actions were not correct. Malpractice is, to a degree, a reflection of the existing general political flaw, both in terms of system and of application.

Ex-Prime Minister al-Huss also says that the mistakes must be corrected and that serious and swift attention must be given to the army's human structure.

What ex-Prime Minister al-Huss says about some provisions of the army law is reiterated by other leaders, some political, some partisan and some military.

The late president, Bashir al-Jumayyil, had decided to replace the army law by another law and used to describe the army's Military Council as the "denominational" council.

A prominent noncivilian official has said that he acknowledges that the army law needs to be amended.

This official adds: After enactment and application, I can say that the law contains some flaws, that some of its provisions have not been successful and have left a negative impact on the army and that some of its points contradict the modern military science applied in well-established armies that build decision-making according to pyramidal organization, unity of command and the successive flow of business. The military system is not based on consultative opinions but rather on the will of the officer in charge at the moment of decision-making. This officer can consult the staff officers. This does not apply to the present law, which places the power of decision-making in the hands of the Military Council.

The official also says: If the special circumstances imposed this kind of law, then the present circumstance requires that the impurities be eliminated and that a stop be put to viewing the army as a field for political experiments. The army must be the ideal and model establishment along whose lines the other establishments are founded.

It can be seen that President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan believe in change, that the laws will be amended and that the mistakes

will be eliminated. This may perhaps lead to abolition of some of the traditional positions, such as the position of army commander. The number of officers and troops will be increased, the military service law will be implemented and, in the wake of President Amin al-Jumayyil's tour, a battle will be waged to provide and equip Lebanon with an army that will keep the future Lebanon free from the danger of internal wars, invasion, partition and fragmentation.

The coming battle is not, according to one of the ministers, an easy battle because the task is difficult and complex internally and externally. But what arouses optimism is that the doors of all Lebanese have been opened to the Lebanese Army and to the internal security forces without prior conditions, complications or accusations, which in the past reached even principles and foundations.

The cooperation of the presidency, the cabinet, the Chamber of Deputies and the Lebanese citizens as a single working team makes the dream of creating a balanced and strong Lebanese Army that is capable of performing all tasks an actual and tangible reality.

The gamble of those who fight Lebanon's unity will then fail and Lebanon will rise.

8494

CSO: 4404/110

PROBLEMS OF HEALTH INSURANCE FUND REVIEWED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 299, 13 Nov 82 pp 41, 43

[Article: "Lebanon: Health Insurance Outwardly Incapable and Insured Is Victim of Intransigence and Conflicts"]

[Text] The well-known Arabic verse "like camels in the desert dying of thirst while carrying water on their backs" applies to the health insurance situation in Lebanon at present.

According to the estimates of the National Social Security Fund, the health insurance in Lebanon suffers from a financial deficit as a result of low collections last year and the total stoppage of collections this year as of last June, i.e. since the start of the Israeli invasion. On the other hand, this branch faces payments due for the past period estimated at nearly 60 million Lebanese pounds, however, the branch has no more than a few million.

The deficit in the Health Insurance Branch is due to numerous factors, especially the uncontrollable rise in drug prices and the haphazard rise in medical treatment fees. As long as an official medical infrastructure is missing, the insurance and its health services will remain hostage to the will of the private hospitals, not to mention the laboratories, and there will be no love lost between doctors and the insurance fund.

The issue projected today is not so much the reasons for the Health Insurance Branch's deficit as it is the traces left by it as interpreted by the administration since the return of normal life to the fund which stopped payment for services until the necessary and unavailable money is secured. This stoppage was interpreted more openly last week when some hospitals in Tripoli, and before them some hospitals in the capital, announced that they would stop receiving insured patients until the insurance fund pays the sums it owes the hospitals. Naturally, this stoppage which has stirred both officials and insured patients apparently did not have any effect on the Fund management which has acted as if the matter did not concern it.

The Fund management had become aware of the problem but tackled it in a purely financial manner without consideration for the interest of the insured or for his inability to wait to be reimbursed for what he pays. The management did not imagine that the hospitals would take such a step.

The financial method followed by the Fund management was to ask the treasury for a loan of 69 million Lebanese pounds representing the sum owed by the state in its capacity as an employer and as a 25-percent participant in the cost of health insurance.

This request has been accompanied by complications within the council [not further specified] and has aroused a side debate which ignored the basic objective of the request. Joe Kayruz, the chairman of the Fund, Executive Council considers that the council is the party with the power to request the loan and the aid and that management can only propose to the council. Other things have also been said on the issue but have produced no positive results, of course.

Naturally, the fund management wanted to ask for a loan because the three branches of the insurance fund are independent financially and none can borrow from the others, unless by a [special] law.

The management did not wish to exhaust other means which are easier and guaranteed by the fund regulations but rather viewed the issue rigidly and literally, keeping in mind that the law does not say anything about the possibility of suspending the payment of bills under any circumstance because suspending such payments means, practically and legally, eliminating the justification for the presence of the fund altogether.

The fact is that the money is available (nearly one billion pounds) in the end-of-service compensation branch which has term-deposits in the banks. Moreover, most of this money is invested in treasury bonds issued by the state. Is it reasonable for the three branches to be so isolated that one branch has a deficit incapable and the other a surplus and former's deficit cannot be compensated for, even if only temporarily.

Those knowledgeable about insurance and its laws do not support the management's step but rather believe that getting a temporary loan during the year is possible. Moreover, deciding whether a branch is suffering from a deficit cannot be made during a certain period of the year.

The provisions [of the law] tie assessing the surplus or the deficit to the end of the fiscal year. This is something acknowledged in the companies which do not distribute their profits and do not make their statements public until the end of the fiscal year.

The classical method followed by Dr Rida Wahid, the fund's general director, to obtain money was blocked recently by the inability of the Ministry of Finance to supply the loan and by an agreement to draft a bill that permits the health insurance branch to borrow from the family compensation branch.

For the bill to pass it must be drafted, approved by the cabinet and presented to the council [presumably meaning the Chamber of Deputies] for approval in a period of 40 days as a minimum [sic]. There is no doubt that such a period poses to the fund the threat of negative repercussions whose early signs have already appeared in the fact that the hospitals have stopped receiving insured patients, agreeing to wait for a period of only 2 weeks upon the pleas of the

officials and the workers. Freezing payment of the medical bills [al-taqdimat] saddles the insured with the burdens of the bills due for payment as of last May, i.e. for a period of 6 months, keeping in mind that the insured is incapable of saving any sum because of the intensifying inflation.

Those following the fund's conditions believe that what has happened in regard to dealing with the deficit of the health insurance branch conceals two fundamental reasons:

1. The insured has fallen victim of the quiet conflict existing between Rida Wahid, the general director, and Joe Kayruz, the Executive Council chairman. This is a conflict resulting from the disposition of the two men and the eagerness of each to upstage the other. If the past circumstances permitted a semi-permanent entente between the two men, by virtue of their being equal in position and influence, the recent political developments have motivated Kayruz to try to exploit these developments to bolster his position vis-a-vis the general director.

One of the signs of the existing conflict is that the general director has not attended so far any of the Executive Council sessions headed by Joe Kayruz, excluding a single session which Wahid was compelled to attend due to the presence of Dr 'Adnan Marwah, the new minister of labor, on the occasion of his first visit to the fund.

Another sign of the conflict is Kayruz's constant endeavors to oppose or foil any proposal made by the management in an attempt to at least amend, if not reject, such proposals.

So far mediators have not succeeded in clearing the atmosphere between the two men who, reportedly are threatened by common danger.

2. There is another interpretation for the method adopted by the fund's general director to get money and for his being compelled to stop the payment of bills. This interpretation says that the quick acquisition of money some-time ago would have meant payment of the bills in certain areas and not in others, which is incompatible with the principle of social justice. This situation is the result of the effects of the Israeli invasion which has destroyed a number of the fund's centers in the south, Beirut and other areas, making it impossible to return to these centers quickly.

Those who are well informed believe that by procrastinating in getting the money, Wahid seeks to have all the centers repaired so that it may become possible to make the payments in all areas simultaneously.

Despite the worthiness of this consideration, it could have been reconciled with the need to speed up the payments because injustice is not corrected with a greater injustice.

Until the law permitting the health insurance branch to borrow from the family compensation branch is passed, the medical payments will remain suspended and the doors of the hospitals may be closed in the face of the insured who carry the biggest burden and cannot get the money because of the laws and the provisions that are promulgated only to complicate matters and that are read literally.

LIQUIDITY, CURRENCY SITUATION IN SUMMER MONTHS EXAMINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 298, 6 Nov 82 pp 53-54

[Article: "Bank Withdrawals During Lebanon's Events Exceeded 1 Billion Pounds; Bank of Lebanon's Loans to Public Sector Rose From Nearly 3,277,000,000 Pounds at End of May to More Than 4,352,000,000 Pounds at Beginning of Last October, i.e. by 32 Percent"]

[Text] Last week, the Bank of Lebanon issued a brief statement on its financial position on 1 October 1982. This is the first statement issued by the bank since the beginning of last June, the date when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon started.

This brief statement is usually issued by the bank on a semi-monthly basis. However, the value of the latest statement lies in the fact that it demonstrates to a large degree the banking and currency conditions during the events and the repercussions of the Israeli invasion that brought to a halt all the economic activities for a period of more than 3 months.

Moreover, this statement fills to a degree the gap in the banking statistics for the 4-month period, keeping in mind that the banks continued to operate on an almost full scale and were, consequently, subject to numerous influences, including in terms of withdrawals, remittances and so forth. What are the most important changes developing in the currency situation during the period from 1 June 1982, the date on which the Israeli invasion started, to 1 October 1982, the date on which normal life returned to the capital?

Withdrawals

The prevalent general impression during these events, according to the bankers' experiences and observations, is that they did not experience any rush on their depositories for withdrawals because they continued their services and presence in most areas and because the citizens wagered at the time that what was happening was the end of the road for the Lebanese crisis.

However, the available figures do not reflect this reality, as some people have thought, keeping in mind that the volume of the withdrawals was not at all commensurate with the dimensions and enormity of the circumstances prevailing at the time. The volume of the currency in circulation rose from

5,069,000,000 pounds at the end of May to 5,915,000,000 pounds at the beginning of last October, meaning that the currency in circulation rose by 846 million pounds in 4 months. If we assume that the period of relative stability in September permitted the return of a part of the increase to the banks' vaults, it can be said that the currency in circulation has increased by approximately 1 billion pounds embodied in the withdrawals from the banks. These withdrawals represent 18 percent of the volume of the currency in circulation on 31 December 1982 [date as published].

The fact is that the volume of withdrawals shown by these statistics is largely normal and reasonable under a critical circumstance such as the one undergone by Lebanon last summer. It would have been possible to imagine much larger withdrawals had the banks stopped meeting their customers' demands or had they imposed restrictions on withdrawals because such measures are likely to create a climate of panic that intensifies the rush for withdrawing monies.

But what is more important than the withdrawals volume is the positive phenomena which accompanied the withdrawals--phenomena reflected in the statistics of the Bank of Lebanon. The most important of these phenomena are:

- A. Throughout that period, the banks did not find themselves compelled to resort to the Bank of Lebanon to obtain liquidity, keeping in mind that the Bank of Lebanon was prepared to meet such demands. The Bank's loans to the private sector rose by only 12 million pounds, thus reflecting the banks' solvency insofar as liquidity is concerned and their ability to face all eventualities.
- B. It is true that the banks nurtured their liquidity during that period from the payments due from the government for the treasury bond issues. But it is also true that the banks maintained a very satisfactory level of continued subscription, thus demonstrating that they did not need all the liquidity available to them.
- C. Moreover, it can be said that the withdrawals are of a temporary nature because they will soon return to the banks' safes gradually. This trend has been clearly evident in the wake of the periods of unrest undergone by Lebanon.
- D. From the return [of withdrawals to the banks] to the stable pound exchange rate throughout the events, it can be said that the withdrawals did not so much reflect the desire for them to be converted into foreign currencies as much as they reflected the people's anticipation of eventualities and their desire to keep on hand sufficient liquidity to meet their needs, especially since the Lebanese faced in that period a very high cost of living insofar as rent and food were concerned and were forced to move from one area to another more than once.

Treasury Debt

Though the Bank of Lebanon statistics have reflected reasonable withdrawals from the banks, they have also demonstrated a large increase in the state's internal debts through increased withdrawals from the Bank of Lebanon. The

Bank's loans to the public sector rose from nearly 3,277,000,000 pounds at the end of May to 4,352,000,000 pounds at the beginning of October, i.e. with an increase of 1,075,000,000 pounds representing 32 percent.

The fact is that the increase in the state debt has resulted from the following:

1. Continued payment by the Ministry of Finance of the wages of the public sector employees and employees of the independent agencies in an almost normal and regular manner, in addition to the fact that the ministry was compelled to finance a number of urgent deals, such as the purchase of subsidized flour and fuels, including gas, benzine and heavy oil.
2. The total suspension of the collection of both direct and indirect taxes, in addition to the complete stoppage of work in the legal ports which caused the state to lose one of the most important sources of treasury revenues, small as it was.
3. The declining volume of the banks' subscription to the treasury bonds which had constituted previously an alternative to the state's borrowing from the Bank of Lebanon. This relatively meager subscription compelled the state to increase its reliance on the Bank of Lebanon.

The fact is that the volume of the state debt owed to the Bank of Lebanon has exceeded the spending ceiling allowed the treasury in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Bank of Lebanon. However, the agreement was amended recently and the debt ceiling was raised to 3 billion pounds. Moreover, the demand for subscription to the treasury bonds as of the beginning of last September has restored the treasury's debit volume to the legal level. Here, it is worth noting that the treasury's borrowing from the Bank of Lebanon or from the other banks (treasury bonds) is still a debt. But borrowing from the Bank of Lebanon entails for the Lebanese pound inflationary consequences that better be avoided as much as possible.

Banks' Liquidity

The third aspect demonstrated by the statistical statement issued by the Bank of Lebanon is the considerable growth in the liquidity available to the banks. The on-demand deposits, representing mainly the free and compulsory reserves deposited by the banks with the Bank of Lebanon, rose from nearly 3,387,000,000 pounds at the end of May to nearly 4.43 billion pounds at the end of September, i.e. with an increase of 1,043,000,000 pounds or 31 percent.

It can be said that the banks' liquidity resulted from several factors collectively, the most important being:

- A. The relative refrainment of the banks from subscribing to the treasury bonds during the events, considering that the sums they subscribed were less than the sums due them. This supplied the banks with additional liquidity.
- B. The continued general spending by the state for salaries and other needs. The pumping of these monies into the market resulted in greater liquidity in the Lebanese pound at the banks.

C. The Bank of Lebanon's purchase in October, in the wake of the improved exchange rate of the Lebanese pound, of dollars and its pumping of the Lebanese pound into the markets in an endeavor to check the sharp decline in the price of the dollar. Even though the bank intervened as buyer and seller of the dollar, the final outcome was the purchase of dollars and the pumping of Lebanese pounds into the market.

What reinforces the belief that the bank is starting to make purchases is that its foreign currency assets compensated for a considerable part of the decline in the value of these currencies vis-a-vis the Lebanese pound as a result of the decline of the book value of the dollar price between the end of last May and the beginning of last October.

However, the increased liquidity available to the banks did not exert any pressure on the pound in the wake of the emergence of signs of relaxation in August or by virtue of the other political factors which helped improve the pound's exchange rate. Moreover, the return of the banks to the treasury bonds recently to take advantage of the high interest rate paid by these bonds has absorbed a part of this liquidity which is believed to have returned to an acceptable level at present.

The outcome of the banking and currency situation during the critical summer months shows that the situation was largely normal and that the changes developing in the liquidity, internal debt and banks' liquidity volume was of a temporary nature and came as a natural consequence of the circumstances. The new statistics will show that the currency situation is gradually returning to normal.

8494

CSO: 4404/114

PROBLEMS OF EXCESSIVE EMIGRATION VIEWED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1354, 15 Oct 82 p 65

[Article by 'Adnan Karimah]

[Text] While the Beirut stock exchange was still paralyzed and inactive; the services exchange in the free market made record advances and in a manner that surprised the Lebanese who flocked to seek the services with an intensity that helped boost prices to abnormal levels.

The glazier is more difficult to find than hard currency; and although this currency is very abundant in the Beirut market because of freedom of conversion and trade, the intensity of demand for a "master of glass installation" and the small number of "glaziers" have made the Lebanese search for him with "lamp and wick."

The paper hanger is no less important than the glazier because the Israeli shells pierced tens of thousands of homes, offices, warehouses, and business places whose owners rushed to repair them before winter. The daily wages of a "master of paper" now vary between 600 and 800 pounds compared to less than 200 pounds before the Israeli invasion.

The concrete mixer's wages have also doubled and are as high as 500 pounds a day.

The tinsmith is described as being like a doctor. He demands payment for the examination before the operation because his advice is not "free". Then he stings you with his prices for a repair operation which he determined by relying on "[word indistinct]" and does not accept his share of less than 300 pounds an hour."

Then there are the carpenters, the iron workers, and the painters whose wages have also doubled, not to mention the dealer who has benefitted from the crisis as a result of the doubling of the prices of such materials as cement, glass, iron, wood, aluminum, paint, whitewash...and even sand transported from public lands belonging to the state.

What are the causes of this crisis in the building market? Undoubtedly there are two main elements contributing to it:

1) Flight of Syrian workers who were always competing with Lebanese workers with their low wages and in a way that helped lower building costs.

2) Emigration of Lebanese workers fleeing from the war to other countries, especially the Arab oil-producing countries, in an effort to gain their livelihood and live honorably.

It is noteworthy that the services exchange scored big advances in the "small repairs workshop", but what is the situation in the "real construction workshop" for the rebuilding of Lebanon?

It appears that the many positive aspects--political, military, and economic that have become prominent lately--are like bells calling for the return of the emigrants. They are awaiting the opportunity to return to their country and participate in its reconstruction with their youthful arms, skills, and creative and productive experiences, knowing that Lebanon's human resources form the most important part of its capital in compensation for its poverty of natural resources. It is now in greater need of this capital to rebuild its economic power. But another question comes to the fore here: Will the Lebanese who left during the war years return to their country?

Before answering the question, we must give some details of the emigration of the Lebanese. It was not limited to Arab countries, for it also included European countries and the United States.

The data available on the subject are very sparse in view of their difficulty and the diversity of sources. AL-HAWADITH relied on estimates appearing in a new study prepared by Dr Riyadh Tabarah, head of the housing section of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). He used government documents in the host countries and statistics on the admission to and departure from Lebanon.

The data indicate that the Lebanese who departed between 1975 and 1980 numbered about 272,000 persons or an average of 30,000 a year until the beginning of the 1980s compared to less than 10,000 before the war.

Which are the host countries for Lebanese immigrants?

1) Arab countries. About 130,000 Lebanese or 48 percent of the total immigrants went there. Saudi Arabia was the leader in this respect because it invited 88,500. Next come the Emirates with 9200 and Kuwait with 7000.

2) Foreign countries. A total of 146,000 Lebanese or about 53 percent immigrated there. The Western hemisphere absorbed about 97,000, the United States alone accounting for 32,000 compared to 45,000 in South America and 20,000 in Canada. Australia received 18,000, Africa 16,000, and Europe 10,000.

The extent to which the Lebanese contributed to the development of the host countries' economies is indicated by the fact that about 47 percent of all the immigrants, i.e., 129,000 persons, are among the most active economically. Thus, the support ratio is 1.1 dependents per worker.

It has been observed that a large proportion of Lebanese immigrants are highly qualified or have technical skills. U.S. official reports, for example, show that the proportion of Lebanese immigrants with professional or administrative backgrounds constituted during the second half of the 1970s 48 percent of all those economically active or seven times the number among Lebanese working in Lebanon and about double that in the United States itself.

How many immigrants are expected to return to Lebanon? Some earlier studies assumed that all or most of them would return upon the cessation of violence and restoration of security and political stability. This would solve the manpower shortage problem, but the author of the last study, Dr Tabarah, believes that under the best of circumstances and with the end of the ordeal once and for all, no more than 60,000 Lebanese will return within a short period of time, i.e., about one-fifth of those who left during the war years. He bases his belief on the following assumptions:

- 1) Regarding those who emigrated to the Western hemisphere, Australia, and Africa, it is difficult to assume that any appreciable number will return.
- 2) As for those who went to the Arab countries, it can be estimated on the basis of immigration trends before the ordeal that about one-fourth would have emigrated to those countries even if there had been no crisis in Lebanon and that another 25 percent at least will not return because they have established roots there.

To these factors should be added a new one of recent origin, not mentioned in the study. Some of the Arab host countries became aware of an intense desire among the Lebanese workers to return to their country so they proceeded to impose some administrative and financial conditions in order to delay their return to Lebanon until they complete the work to which they are committed by written agreements. The governments have also received pledges from some others whom they allowed to visit their families in Lebanon that obligate them to come back to the host country to finish their work.

- 3) Regarding the immigrants to Europe, little is known of their future intentions. This immigration is of a new kind, but apparently it will not affect estimates of the number returning because they are very few (only 10,000).

Be that as it may and regardless of the number who may return gradually, Lebanon will not be able to rise from the ruin and destruction without the help of its sons. The individual Lebanese has demonstrated that he possesses the qualities needed to revive his country and return its economy to the path of rapid growth. The high scientific and technical abilities, first-class occupational skills, and constructive, creative vitality are all so abundant as to inspire confidence in the ability of Lebanon to regain its vigor and health in a short period of time, provided that circumstances are favorable, the most important being security and political stability.

In this connection I should like to quote a statement of former prime minister Salim al-Huss that epitomizes his view of the Lebanese man during the war years: "The Lebanese man exhibited a vitality, ability, and resoluteness

during and after the hostilities that cannot be overlooked. I admit I said in a moment of deep despair before the sight of Lebanon being consumed by fire and the Lebanese struggling to survive and make a living that I fear for Lebanon but I do not fear for the Lebanese...and in a moment of deeper despair before the sight of a fellow countryman wrecking his country and another leaving it in order to survive and make a living I said I fear for Lebanon, especially for the Lebanese...But now I say, after seeing the Lebanese overflowing with vitality, determination, and ability, there is no fear for Lebanon with the Lebanese present."

5214

CSO: 4404/45

BRIEFS

ILLEGAL PORTS--Circles close to the Lebanese forces say that the step to close the illegal ports will not be taken until next April. These circles have not revealed the justifications and causes for setting this particular date. However, other informed circles believe that the April date is not final and that special political developments may crop up to move the date closer, not delay it. It seems that the financial pressures being exerted in opposition to closing the illegal ports are the reason for not taking this step soon. In this regard, it has been learned that the phased approach is the approach adopted to finally eliminate smuggling. The first step is to raise the fees levied to 75 percent of what the state charges in its legal ports, with the second step calling for raising these fees to 100 percent. When the fees of both the legal and the illegal ports become the same, the incentive and inducement existing in the past behind the illegal ports will disappear. It is well-known that the fifth pier of Beirut Port, now being utilized by the Lebanese forces, was scheduled to be returned to the Port Authority last 23 September had the late President Bashir al-Jumayyil had the chance to assume power on that day. The first step preceding this one was closure of the passage linking the fifth pier with the fourth pier, which was used partially for illegal purposes. However, this step did not last long because it was cancelled in the wake of Bashir al-Jumayyil's assassination. What is more important than all this is that President Amin al-Jumayyil wants seriously to abolish all illegal manifestations and to stop the collection of fees by private organizations. But President al-Jumayyil is eager to choose the right time and to do things with minimum complications. What confirms the presence of this climate at B'abda Palace are the increasing statements made by palace visitors on the need to close the illegal ports [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 298, 6 Nov 82 p 47] 8494

BUSINESS DISTRICT RECONSTRUCTION--The question of rebuilding the Beirut business district is being discussed far from the limelight and amidst reports on this district's undefined future. It has been reported in some circles that the enthusiasm for revitalizing this district varies from one group to another. Some people "interested" in this issue have been surprised by the insistence of Victor Qasir, the Merchants Association chairman, on returning to the district quickly and on "revitalizing the national and regional role played by the commercial markets of the Lebanese capital in the past." The reason for the lack of desire to return to the old markets is the fear of some merchants who have established themselves in the suburbs during the Lebanese events that this return will affect the level of their activities and of the "protection money" [they pay] in their areas, as well as the fear of some real estate agents who have benefited from the rising prices of lands and buildings in the new commercial areas. Observers say that the studies on reconstruction and

repair, on the means of financing and on the issues involving the rights of landlords and tenants in the business district await the go-ahead from President Amin al-Jumayyil to be released and for the wheel of work in the Beirut business district to be turned. These observers add that the decision is primarily political, not technical. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 298, 6 Nov 82 p 47] 8494

SAUDI AID--A number of Shi'ite and Druze educational and social organizations will get a part of the financial aid which King Fahd has promised to give the Islamic organizations through ex-Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. According to reliable information, the royal aid is estimated at 300 million pounds. [Text] [Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 298, 14 Nov 82 p 44] 8494

CSO: 4404/114

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON ABU NIDAL

Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Aug 82 p 3

[Article: Abu Nidal - professional terrorist]

[Text] Small, broadbacked, shifty eyed, Abu Nidal has always had the mysterious manner of a conspirator. He refuses on principle to receive a journalist or to allow himself to be photographed. His collaborators, who can be met in Baghdad or Damascus, present him as the head of a dissident Palestinian organization. In fact he was excluded from the Fath in October 1974 after he was condemned to death by 'Arafat's organization for diverting funds, armed sedition and assassinations.

In spring 1974 in Beirut, Abu Nidal became the head of dissidents who denounce the "cowardly policies" and "treason" of the PLO which had just modified its strategy. The Palestinian leadership had decided no longer to demand "the total liberation of Palestine" and stated that they would be satisfied with a ministate on the West Bank and in Gaza. That was the honeymoon period between 'Arafat and President Sadat, and the PLO chief thought he could win representation at the Geneva peace conference which was to be called at the request of the former Egyptian head of state.

Fall 1974: Abu Nidal sought refuge in Iraq which was part of the "rejectionist front." Not only did he then attack his Palestinian adversaries but also and above all Syrian targets, which could only have the effect of delighting the Baghdad leadership.

October 1978: Worried by the turn taken by the Khomeyni revolution, Iraq rejoined the "moderate" Arab camp in order to strengthen its ties with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries. During a visit by the Syrian president Asad, crowning a "reconciliation" between Damascus and Baghdad, the Iraqi president Saddam Hussein "entrusted" to him Abu Nidal, who had become a burden. The Syrian head of state, who had rejoined the "hardline" Arabs, because of the Camp David negotiations, gladly accepted this "gift." Thus Abu Nidal became Syria's instrument in its struggle with its adversaries, including the PLO.

One may ask the question whether Abu Nidal is motivated by any sort of ideology. There is no article written by him, nor any resume in ..is

organization's publication. The few privileged Arabs who have met him say that he has only one word on his lips: kill. His hitmen specialize in two types of attack: one antisemitic in nature (he claimed responsibility, among others, for the deadly attack on the synagogue of Vienna in September 1981), and the other antipalestinian. PLO representatives in London, Paris, Brussels and Rome, to mention only these, have been killed by his men. He tried to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat twice as well as chancellor Kreisky, but the Austrian and Moroccan police uncovered these plots in time. Abu Nidal claimed responsibility for the attack of last June 3 which nearly cost the life of the Israeli ambassador in London and which resulted in unleashing the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "Contrary to appearances," Dr 'Isam Sartawi declared, "Abu Nidal is not a maximalist of the "rejectionist front" but a renegade who has placed himself at the disposal of the Israeli information services." This is the theory that the PLO has been advocating for several years.

Abu Nidal left Syria last March at the explicit request of President Asad after the latter had settled his differences with the Palestinian leadership and concluded "a strategic agreement" with it. Asad and 'Arafat already knew that Israel was preparing to invade Lebanon and the expulsion of Abu Nidal was part of the compromise.

Has Abu Nidal returned to Baghdad, as various tallying reports would have us believe? The Iraqi government has refused to confirm or to deny these allegations.

9824

CSO: 4419/6

YANBU' GAS FRAGMENTATION PLANT, SEAPORT OPERATIONS GET UNDER WAY

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 143, 6-12 Nov 82 pp 41-42

[Article by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tamimi: "Fruits of Industrial Transformation in Saudi Arabia: Yanbu's Port Operations Started"]

[Text] Jiddah--On 5 October 1982, the British ship "Cavendish" sailed from the Port of Yanbu', one of the two wings of the modern Saudi oil industry, carrying the first shipment of liquefied gas processed in the Yanbu' industrial zone. The shipment headed for Italy via the Suez Canal. It consisted of 105,000 barrels of butane gas and 190,000 barrels of propane gas, according to the statements of Aramco, one of the biggest firms implementing engineering and construction work in the Yanbu' area.

The "Cavendish" had anchored along the gas (plant) pier on 1 October. It is the first of the gas tankers expected to make regular trips to the Red Sea ports.

For the European and North American markets, the Yanbu' Gas Port saves thousands of miles in transporting oil compared with the east coast ports of the kingdom. Even though the price of a ton of gas sold in Yanbu' exceeds by \$6 the price of a ton of gas shipped from the eastern area, the foreign firms' eagerness to purchase gas from Yanbu' reflects the preference of many markets for the Red Sea side.

The Aramco gas-exporting pier has been designed to handle 200 ships annually at docks, each of which can serve giant gas tankers that can absorb up to 200,000 cubic meters per hour--a capacity greater than that of any liquefied gas tanker scheduled to be built in the future. Moreover, each pier can also handle natural gasoline [sic] tankers with a capacity of up to 140,000 tons.

The loading systems have been designed to pump 30,000 barrels per hour, according to Aramco reports. With these steps, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is now reaping the fruits of long years of tiring work started in 1975 when the Saudi Government decided to build a network extending to various parts of the country to collect, treat, transport and process gas in order to enhance the wheel of industrialization in the kingdom. The costs have totaled several billion riyals.

Government agencies and authorities and numerous firms took part in planning and building the industrial complex that has risen like a giant in an area that was until recently somewhat remote.

Aramco is one of the biggest establishments that have taken part in building the gas fragmentation plant and the export seaport. Thus, the Saudi Government has actually been able to utilize nearly all the quantities of gas accompanying the production of oil. After eliminating its sulfur content and after being treated, the gas is used as fuel in the industrial complexes built in Yanbu' and al-Jubayl, as well as in the other industrial facilities now being built and that will be built in the kingdom in the future. The gas will also generate several thousand megawatts of power needed for the industrialization program and for other housing and industrial purposes. The liquefied gas that cannot be used locally will be exported in the form of propane, butane and natural benzine.

The Saudi Government's program to collect natural gas and the other industrial projects now being implemented follow the broad lines of the kingdom's second development plan, covering the period 1975-80. The plan covers three goals: industrial and agricultural production, rapid development of manpower resources and development of all parts of the kingdom through the distribution of productive investment and large-scale social programs according to need.

These goals were adopted as a result of the awareness of a proven fact, namely, that world oil reserves are expected to be depleted and that without systematic planning on the part of the kingdom, the expected world oil demand may exhaust the kingdom's large reserves before it can transform its oil-based economy into a complete economy based on industry.

The gas program is one of the important means for transforming the oil-based economy. Without the successful completion of this program, the industrial complexes in Yanbu', al-Jubayl, al-Dammam and elsewhere will continue to lack the fuel and raw materials needed for the various plants scheduled to be built and the plants already built.

The gas produced with crude oil and collected at the gas separation plant belonging to Aramco is distributed to three centers located in strategic sites in the Eastern Province.

At these centers, the gas is treated for the removal of (hydrogen sulfide) and carbon dioxide. Methane gas, a sweet and dry gas, is then pressed out and distributed to provide fuel for several industrial zones, including al-Jubayl and al-Dammam, and natural gas liquids are extracted.

The natural gas liquids produced in the Shadqam and al-'Uthmaniyah plants will be pumped through a pipeline to the gas fragmentation plant and the export seaport that will be built in Yanbu' and al-Juhaymah.

Fragmentation is the process of breaking natural gas into its components through evaporation and condensation controlled by way of a number of tanks. Ethane, the lightest component, is released first in the form of gas and is used as fuel or raw material in the petrochemical plants to be built in Yanbu'

and al-Jubayl. What remains in the fragmentation tanks after removal of the ethane is known as the natural gas liquids, namely, propane, butane and natural benzine. These remaining components are separated in another fragmentation process. These liquids then have to be treated for removal of their sulfur compounds before they are exported.

Fragmentation Units

The fragmentation units [crackers] in Yanbu' and al-Jubayl consist of a series of tanks in which the gas is transformed into ethane, propane, butane and natural benzine. Propane and butane are then cooled and called oil gas and are exported from Yanbu' and al-Juhaymah. Ethane is pumped from the government-owned cracker in Yanbu' through a pipeline to al-Jubayl industrial complex to be used as raw material in the petrochemical industries.

The fragmentation plant and the port in (al-Jam'iyah) are scheduled to go into operation by 1 July 1983, having gone into preliminary operation on 1 July 1980. The fragmentation plant and the export seaport in Yanbu' went into preliminary operation on 1 July 1982.

An indication of the importance the Saudi Government attaches to the Yanbu' industrial complex is the fact that the natural gas liquids produced in the gas treatment plant in the Eastern Province will be transported to Yanbu' via a 1,160-kilometer long pipeline, the longest pipeline built in the kingdom since completion of the Tapline 28 years ago.

The natural gas liquids pipeline, built parallel to a crude oil pipeline, has a capacity of 1.85 million barrels daily. It is the longest pipeline built to transport gas liquids, in addition to being the latest pipeline of its kind and to being operated by electronic computers. Construction of the pipeline started in December 1978 and it was completed at the beginning of 1981.

The natural gas liquids pipeline starts at the Shadqam gas plant and passes through extremely rough terrain in its twisted path across the Arabian Peninsula to Yanbu'. At the outset, the high-pressure pipeline with a diameter of 26/28/30 inches will carry 270,000 barrels of natural gas liquids daily to Yanbu', with the capability of increasing its capacity by 50 percent in the future, if necessary.

Special design characteristics have been introduced into the natural gas liquids pipeline, including a control apparatus at the central dispatch network in Dhahran. The dispatcher receives data from 38 locations along the pipeline and the data is transferred to the central dispatch network via fixed frequency radio channels. The central dispatcher then issues the operational instructions to Shadqam and Yanbu' via the same fixed-frequency network.

When the natural gas liquids reach Yanbu', they are subjected to fragmentation processes to separate the ethane gas, which is used as fuel and raw material for the petrochemical industries in the area. Propane, ethane and (other by-products) are prepared for export.

The products ready to be loaded pass through a 12,000-foot long pipeline and a measuring plant to the port, whence they are shipped to world markets.

8494

CSO: 4404/108

PROBLEMS, BENEFITS OF SENDING STUDENTS ABROAD DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 726, 17-23 Nov 82 pp 3-7

[Article: "Our Sons Overseas: Problems With Size of Love; Record Figure of 1,538 Graduates Last Year, Including 400 with M.A. Degree and 120 with Ph. D; 13,000 Students on Scholarships in United States, Including at Least 40 Percent in Human Science Disciplines Available at Our Universities; There Are No Incentives for Excelling Scholarship Students and No Punishment for Those Failing; Why?; How 'Deception' Is Perpetrated To Turn Scholarship Student's Wife Into Student So That She May Enjoy Scholarship Student's Privileges; 4,000 Scholarship Students Enrolled at Their Own Expense Cause Education Office in United States Chronic 'Headache'; What Are Imaginary Institutes, Swindling Groups and Fleecing Operations Committed Against Saudi Students in United States?; It Is Required To Form Higher Scholarships Commission With Sole Power To Approve Scholarships; Organizational, Academic, Financial, Social and Cultural Solutions for Problems of Scholarship Students; Field and Scientific Study Is Required To Determine How Well Saudi Scholarship Graduates Are Utilized"]

[Text] This issue drew AL-YAMAMAH's attention during a visit to the United States nearly 2 months ago. We were there on a tour organized by the Education Office, coordinated by the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Information, to send a number of intellectuals to hold open symposiums with our sons there in order to answer their questions and queries. As a result of the symposiums and meetings held between AL-YAMAMAH and the scholarship students there, the outlines of this issue appeared to us. We then proceeded to complete this picture through meetings with the officials at our Education Office in Houston, beginning with Subhi al-Harithi, our educational attache there, and ending with anybody closely or remotely connected with the issue of scholarships. Because the number of scholarship students who expressed their views was large, because the discussions that took place in our Education Office in the United States represent the office's viewpoint as an official agency and not the viewpoint of one person in particular and because what is discussed on this issue is taken from reports not published before, we have preferred to present this issue from a purely objective viewpoint that disregards all names. This means that this report discusses the philosophy of sending students abroad on scholarships, with all the concepts involved in this policy. The discussion, therefore, steers clear of personal opinions and interpretations that may be right or wrong.

The first thing we would like to underline in this issue is that AL-YAMAMAH noticed during its visit to the United States that two important accomplishments were achieved by the end of the 1981-82 academic year, namely:

First, the issuance of royal organizational decree No 19851 of 28/8/1401 of the Hegira which established major controls capable of regulating Saudi scholarships qualitatively and quantitatively. Five positive accomplishments have been realized as a result of this decree:

1. An end to the enrollment of scholarship students in educational institutions with a low academic standard.
2. A drop in the percentage of new scholarship students sent to study for a B.A. or lower degree and a rise in the number of those in higher education, contrary to previous years.
3. A considerable drop in the number of scholarship students sent for academic college studies compared with the previous 5 years.
4. A rise in the number of scholarship students sent to study technical, professional and applied sciences compared with the number sent to study human and social sciences.
5. The attention given to moral guidance and preparation and to social guidance embodied in the enlightenment courses now given by Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud University.

Second, the number of Saudi graduates has reached a record figure this year, totaling 1,538 university graduates and trainees, including 120 with a Ph.D., 400 with an M.A. and 600 with a B.A. Moreover, the number of students graduating in each specialization has also increased, with emphasis on the engineering sciences, 323 graduates; the management sciences, 114 graduates; and the computer sciences, 51 graduates.

The issue of scholarship students is considered one of the most important development issues in our country. To us in AL-YAMAMAH, the issue represents a constant and urgent concern. This is why we brought it up at a similar time last year in edition No 684, published on 20 Rabi' al-Awwal 1402 of the Hegira, under the title "Scholarship Students Are Accused, Scholarship Students Are Not Guilty." That first article was presented from the viewpoint of "individuals," whereas we present this new article from the viewpoint of "concepts."

In recent years, sending scholarship students from the kingdom to Europe and the United States has assumed large dimensions in terms of the number of students sent, particularly to the United States, where we now have 13,000 male and female students.

Throughout the past 20 years, sending scholarship students abroad was the main avenue for supplying the production and service sectors with manpower and with a considerable number of trained minds. The field figures and studies confirm this fact. If we follow the implementation of projects in the "companies

and factories" sector, in the public agencies, in the services sector and in the military and security sphere, we find that graduates from the U.S. universities, institutes and training centers constitute a high percentage of the workers and managers in these sectors.

We have already cited the example of the number of graduates in 1402 of the Hegira, totaling 1,538. Suffice it to cite another example of the preceding year, 1401 of the Hegira, when the number was 1,069, including 102 with a Ph.D. 408 with an M.A., 535 with a B.A., 7 with degrees in (medical fellowship) and 44 with mid-level diplomas. These figures, with all that they represent to our development and building, underline a number of facts which are considered as benefits of the scholarship system:

First, sending scholarship students abroad achieves the objective of training and educating the national manpower to implement the development plans of our ambitious state.

Second, establishing universities and industrial institutions and setting up training and preparation centers in the kingdom is considered a higher objective. This objective cannot be accomplished unless the qualified manpower trained in higher education, scientific research and the management of industrial and agricultural projects on a sound basis is available. Sending students on scholarships is considered one of the most important ways to achieve this objective.

Third, the numerous state agencies and establishments need trained employees who are knowledgeable in modern management sciences and in running the services of our modern state. Sending students on scholarships is considered an important contribution to the development of these agencies.

Fourth, the homeland's internal and external security has become dependent on advanced military sciences. These sciences require simultaneously a highly qualified, trained and prepared manpower. Sending scholarship students abroad, along with the national schools and colleges, helps to supply the kingdom with this manpower.

However, all these positive aspects favoring the system of scholarships cannot hide from us the real problems facing this system, problems described by an official report as "weak points in the scholarship system."

These problems can be summed up in three major types:

Organizational problems.

Academic problems.

Financial problems.

First, Organizational Problems

A number of negative aspects affecting scholarship affairs generally can be included under this type. These negative aspects can be defined in the following points:

1. The number of students sent on scholarships abroad to study human, social and management sciences amounts to 40 percent of all male scholarship students even though these disciplines are available in the kingdom's universities and institutes. This is happening at a time when there is a rising need to send scholarship students to study in the fields of engineering, medicine and technology, which are considered fundamental to national development. Perhaps one sign of the flaw in this scholarship system is the large number of Ph.D.'s in our society, which is still in the early stage of human development. Suffice it to note that the number of students currently studying on scholarships abroad is 729, with the overwhelming majority of them enrolled in the fields of human and social sciences.

2. Some public sector establishments, establishments with joint capital and major private companies give themselves an unrestricted right to send students on scholarships because they are not subject to the provisions of the organizational circular. Recently, the number of scholarship students sent by these establishments has risen to the point where it threatens to restore the Saudi scholarship system to what it used to be prior to the organizational circular, not to mention that the sending of scholarship students by the establishments in this fashion causes a poor geographic distribution of the scholarship students and creates obvious differences between government-sponsored scholarships and those sponsored by the companies.

3. There are more than 4,000 male and female students studying at their own expense in the United States. The problems of this group are more acute and broader in scope than the problems of the other students sent on scholarships. These students, who go to study at their own expense, encounter academic problems embodied in the low academic standards of the educational institutes in which they are enrolled, in social problems, such as marrying American women to get residence, and in economic problems that force them to use any means to get money.

The Education Office has been receiving an increasing number of requests from these students to be included in the scholarship mission. Suffice it to point out that the number of requests has exceeded 1,100.

4. A number of ministries and public agencies and establishments send scholarship students to the United States without observing the rules and regulations in force. The most significant of these violations is the sending of students for studies below the higher levels, the number of such students amounting to 550 in less than a year, not to mention the fact that students and employees are sent on scholarships before places are secured for them in the proper U.S. educational institution.

5. The large number of Saudi students in the United States and the social, economic and political conditions that characterize the U.S. environment and that are totally different from the homeland's circumstances help raise the rate of delinquency and deviation and voluntary and involuntary embroilment in legal problems that end up in lawsuits and fines against the Saudi student. This is why the Education Office finds itself faced with the need to provide legal defense and to protect the scholarship students.

6. A student sent to the United States finds himself compelled to buy a car. As a result, the possibility of road accidents and of causing harm to one's self and to others arises and this puts the students under the jurisdiction of the law and of paying compensations that reach the extent of extortion. All of this leads to financial, administrative and legal complications for the Education Office, which finds it its duty to protect the student despite everything.

These are the six organizational problems facing the student sent to the United States. Solving these problems requires a frank, as well as decisive, confrontation. But discussion of these solutions must be delayed somewhat until we complete this review.

Second, Academic Problems

These problems can be summed up in the following three specific points:

1. The present condition of the scholarship system does not give the scholarship students incentives encouraging them to exert greater efforts. Moreover, it does not establish penalties for failing students. The importance of this element becomes obvious when we learn that one-third of our students are unable to fulfill the graduation requirements on schedule.

2. Reading, writing and speaking English well is one of the most important prerequisites for enrollment in most U.S. educational institutions and training centers. Mastering the language in this manner is a problem for the Saudi scholarship student. The Education Office's studies prove that nearly 30 percent of the students spend periods of up to 2 years to learn the language and that at least 10 percent of all students spend more than 2 years. Moreover, some of them completely fail to learn the language. All this results in extending the scholarship period, with all the subsequent waste of time and money that entails.

3. There is a group that fails to complete its studies during the period set for the scholarship. A student with this problem has several alternatives: have his scholarship terminated and return to the kingdom, be transferred to an internal scholarship, work with the agency sponsoring him or pay the full costs spent on him.

These alternatives involve a number of pitfalls, including material and moral loss as a result of the student's failure and social and psychological damage.

Statistics indicate the true nature of this problem. Suffice it to know that during the last 3 years, a total of 1,158 students returned to the kingdom without completing their studies and that there are 600 more students exposed to the same fate. Moreover, no less than 25 percent of all students cannot complete the graduation requirements on schedule and more than 18 percent of the students have exceeded the set scholarship period by one full year.

Third, Financial Problems

This last group of problems of scholarships and scholarship students can be summed up in five basic points:

1. A wife accompanying a scholarship student spends the equivalent of 50 percent of the monthly allocation as a housewife whereas a wife who is also a student is entitled to all the benefits enjoyed by the ordinary student. This is why every wife has begun to claim the title of student so as to enjoy the financial benefits. This has opened the door to circumventing the law and cheating to get additional financial benefits, which ends up in the squandering of state funds in the form of academic fees [for wives].

2. A wife's enrollment in any institute of any level adds an extra and useless burden to the Education Office's responsibilities because when the wife becomes a "student," even if in an imaginary institute teaching sewing, language or home economics, her enrollment forces the Education Office to take all the complicated financial and administrative measures entailed by this enrollment.

Needless to say, neither the wife nor the state benefit from these imaginary studies and we end up losing a considerable amount of money and time.

3. The allowance for accompanying children is presently paid for only two children. This helps widen the gap in the income of the scholarship students and denies the big family with more than two children the possibility of providing the means of care and education needed for the children.

4. Under the financial regulations preceding issuance of the latest organizational circular, 1,500 riyals was dispensed to the student one time throughout the scholarship duration as an allowance for educational aids and tools. The new organizational circular dispenses with this sum.

5. A medical allowance of 4,000 riyals for the single scholarship student and of 8,000 riyals for the married scholarship student, whether he has children or not, is paid annually. This puts both types of married students on an equal footing, even though the burdens on parents supporting children are heavier than for those without children, not to mention the fact that small children are more likely to get sick, thus causing their medical to be heavier.

These are the organizational, academic and financial problems.

If these problems are of a "practical" nature, then there are other problems of a "moral" nature that pose a number of "pitfalls" that can be added to this list. These pitfalls are:

1. The danger of having the student's national identity influenced and of having his religious and political affiliation with his homeland--a homeland that depends on this student for development and growth--undermined, especially if the student is young and inexperienced.

2. The danger of having the student acquire, by virtue of his stay in the United States, social customs that he may transfer to his conservative society, thus discrediting himself and his country.

3. The danger of failing to adapt to U.S. society, a failure that may affect the studies, thus causing the student to fail in his scholarship.

These are the problems and pitfalls that surround the issue of sending students on scholarships. We say that this issue has not been presented so "comprehensively and frankly" before. We present it here in this detail because we know that the solution to any problem begins with confronting the problem and investigating all of the facts involved. Then "recommendations" are made. Through interviews with the officials in charge of the Education Office and with the students, AL-YAMAMAH has been able to reach a complete set of recommendations that may be able to solve the problem finally.

As the issue has been broken down into organizational, academic and financial problems, the presentation of the solutions will proceed in the same fashion. We will present here organizational recommendations first, then the financial recommendations and finally the social and cultural recommendations.

First, Organizational Recommendations

1. Establish basic qualification requirements and criteria that must be possessed by the scholarship candidate, such as his getting a "very good" evaluation and passing a skill test, in addition to being of the right age and of good conduct and faith.
2. Form a higher scholarships commission with the power to make and issue decisions approving a scholarship, provided that the commission is headed by the minister of higher education and includes representatives of Saudi universities in its membership.
3. Study the problem of the students currently studying at their own expense.
4. Lay down controls for scholarship students sent by establishments so that the necessary measures will be taken to subject all scholarships abroad, be they government or establishment scholarships, to all of the scholarship regulations currently in force or to be issued in the future.
5. Conduct local English-language courses for scholarship candidates before they are sent abroad for studies and organize the departure of the students so that they are sent abroad 1 month before the start of the academic year.
6. Have agencies sending scholarship students consult with the Education Office before the students are sent to the United States.
7. Take the necessary steps to increase the capacities of our universities.
8. Give the graduates of the kingdom's universities absolute priority of job appointment in all agencies.
9. Exert concerted efforts to establish higher technical institutes in the kingdom so as to reduce excesses in sending people on training scholarships.
10. Formulate alternative solutions for scholarship students faltering in their studies by changing their specializations or organizing alternative training and technical programs.

Second, Financial Recommendations

1. Pay the wife a full monthly salary equal to that of the scholarship student whether she is enrolled in studies or not, so as to eliminate the manipulation and extortion practiced by the U.S. institutions that charge high fees, not to mention the fact that the wife is entitled to a full salary.
2. Make the maximum of the children's allowance equal to 100 percent of the monthly recompense paid to the scholarship student.
3. Grant every child accompanying a scholarship student a medical allowance equalling 25 percent of the allowance set for the father, provided that the total [for all children] does not exceed 100 percent of the father's medical allowance.
4. Grant the scholarship student graduating on schedule and with the designated specialization and degree an award equalling 2 months' pay to encourage the graduate and to motivate his colleagues.
5. Have agencies sending scholarship students pay the elementary school fees for children, to a maximum of \$100 monthly.
6. Allocate part of the Education Office's budget to cover the costs of employing a lawyer for legal consultation and to defend the students.

Third, Social and Cultural Recommendations

1. Encourage the scholarship students to establish social and cultural clubs in the areas where they live.
2. Encourage the students to celebrate the [Saudi] national day annually and to revive the memory of this day because this draws them closer to their homeland, their history and their destiny.
3. The Ministry of Information should fulfill its promise to give the scholarship students free subscriptions to local papers.
4. The Ministry of Information should supply the Education Office with publications, information material, references and books that cover various aspects of life and that include the ancient and modern Islamic Arab history.
5. The General Youth Welfare Directorate should send folklore art groups to perform in the cities and areas where there are student concentrations.

This is the issue of scholarship students with all its pros and cons. However, it remains to be said that the Civil Service Commission or a special commission formed for the purpose must evaluate how well the Saudi scholarship graduates returning to the country are utilized and to what extent they abide by serving the state and public sector agencies in the academic and practical fields in which they specialized. It must conduct a comprehensive study to evaluate their circumstances, point out the difficulties and obstacles that prevent utilization of their efforts and ability, find solutions for these difficulties and obstacles and take the necessary measures to see that they do not recur with the new graduates and scholarship students.

BRIEFS

PRIVATE SECTOR FIGURES--Saudi Ministry of Finance statistics show that the private establishments and companies operating in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia number nearly 152,000 engaged in mining, quarrying, industry, electricity, water, construction, distribution, services and transportation. More than 1 million persons work in these establishments and companies, 61 percent of which are engaged in commerce, 15 percent in industry, 11 percent in services, 5 percent in transportation, 4 percent in building and construction and 4 percent in finance and banking. [Text] [London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 144, 13-19 Nov 82 p 46] 8494

CSO: 4404/108

HAMAH INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS REVIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 14 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Naji As'ad: "Industrial Sector Investments in Hamah Province Total 15 Billion Syrian Pounds"]

[Text] The corrective movement, which was lead by the fighter al-Asad on the morning of 16 November 1970, has translated the process of developing the masses of the revolution in Syria, using the party's slogans as a point of departure, from the theoretical stage to practical application in various fields.

The leader al-Asad's interest in the problems of the masses, and his learning of their practical concerns at first hand, had the greatest effect on launching this life, through a flood of economic accomplishments that have been achieved under the banner of correctionalism.

Those accomplishments, which embodied the hopes and projects that had been lying in the files during past regimes, were turned into fact for all to see, stopped the doubters and the opportunists, and proved to all the world the truth of the attachment of the leader al-Asad to the masses of the people and his deep sensitivity to their concerns and problems. The base of the economic structure was expanded, and the country's various provinces gained their share of these accomplishments, or rather, those provinces and districts that had been somewhat neglected were supported with a bigger share of the services projects and the economic projects.

Hamah Province and the city of Abi-al-Fada' were high in the priorities of the leader and the corrective movement, since a number of huge industrial projects have been built in the province, the services sector is busy both in the rural and urban areas, various villages and parts of the province are being lit with electricity for the first time in the history of the country, and the leader al-Asad's gifts to this province are still being maintained in this fashion now, or rather, are increasing continuously.

In Government House in the city of Hamah, TISHRIN met with comrade Dr Muhammad Khalid Harbah, the governor of Hamah, and had the following conversation with him on the twelfth anniversary of the corrective movement.

The governor said: "Since its establishment, the revolution has shown a special care for the province of Hamah, and the effects of this care have been concentrated, in the first place, on the city of Hamah. The object of that was to activate the social reality in this city, where unemployment was clearly prevalent. But the true concern was made clear and was translated effectively, after the corrective movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad."

The governor continued:

"I want to mention again that what the city of Hamah obtained was more than any of the other provinces obtained. As examples of that:

"The total capital invested in the industrial sector in the country before 1960 did not exceed 800 million Syrian pounds, while we find that capital investment in this sector in the province of Hamah alone is more than 15 billion Syrian pounds." That becomes evident through several important industrial projects, such as the tire factory, which accommodates more than 1465 workers, at a cost of 800 million Syrian pounds, the spinning plant that employs 2176 workers, and cost 600 million pounds, the porcelain factory, with 746 workers, at a cost of 550 million pounds, two cement factories, which now accommodate 800 workers, at a cost of 400 million Syrian pounds and the iron plant, which cost one and one-half billion Syrian pounds, and accommodates 1500 workers. There is also the sugar beet plant in Salhab, and the thermal station in Muharradah, whose costs amounted to 750 million pounds, employing 250 workers."

The governor went on to say that "the accomplishments that I have mentioned are only those I can recall at the moment. They are by way of example, and there are many more projects than I can remember.

"When we visualize that these factories are able to provide 25,000 job opportunities for 25,000 workers and their families in the city of Hamah alone, we can understand the importance of this matter in insuring the honor and good life for this large number of families in the city of Hamah. In addition, everyone in our country remembers, and the people of Hamah especially remember, that before these accomplishments, the workers would squat by the gates of the city, waiting for a vehicle. They would compete among themselves for the job of unloading it for a few pounds. Today it would be strange to find a single man out of work. Accordingly, one understands the importance of what the corrective movement has provided to this city, at a time in which we see unemployment increasing even in the large industrial nations"

The Agricultural Sector

Regarding the agricultural sector and the level it has obtained in Hamah Province, he said:

"The agricultural situation is no less developed than the industrial situation, since the agricultural reform law, and subsequent laws, have liberated

the farmer of this province from the chains of feudal exploitation of both the land and the peasants. Clearly, the rural areas around this city share effectively in the development of the city itself, while the development that has occurred in the rural areas was the direct result of the city's growth. There is a practical law that "no city is developed and prosperous, unless it is surrounded by a productive and prosperous countryside."

"There are dialectical relationships between the country and the city. The countryside's regression leads necessarily to regression of the city, and the development of one leads to the growth of the other.

"Moreover, the development of the city is positively reflected in matters of construction and in other services, whether they be health related or not."

The governor referred to the fact that the establishment of industrial organizations in Hamah Province, which are dependent on agricultural raw materials, had positive effects on the growth of this sector, as well as the irrigation projects in al-Ghab and al-Sahul, located between the town of al-Rastan and the city of Hamah (Hamah-Homs irrigation project). They shared effectively in the growth of agricultural production in the province.

The Salhab sugar factory has shared in the increased production of sugar beets, since it has doubled annually during the past period of time. In 1980, the province's production reached 110,000 tons, growing in 1981 to 280,000 tons. The province's production of this material in the current year will be more than 400,000 tons, i.e., the equivalent of half the country's production of sugar beets is produced in Hamah Province. Moreover, with respect to the return from a unit of land, the average production from one dunum in the al-Ghab district is 5 tons, while some farmers have reached 8 tons, which is the highest recorded yield of sugar beets in Syria.

The governor added that agriculture in Hamah Province, as a result of the interest and concern of the farmers, has become on a par with the yield of agricultural production in the advanced nations. Production of sugar beets per one hectare in Hamah Province has reached an average of 50 tons, while in France, for example, production per hectare does not exceed this amount.

Services

Comrade governor said:

"After the example of agriculture, and the excellent level that has been reached, we can turn to the situation of services in Hamah Province. We can say that the district of Miyaf will be completely wired up for electricity by the end of the current year. No more than 10 percent of the villages of al-Ghab district will remain unlighted, and that just amounts to scattered farms. We can also say and confirm for the residents of this province that by the end of 1983, the province will be covered by electricity, and there will not be a single house that electricity has not reached by that year.

"As regards drinking water, we will not discuss its situation in the city of Hamah. Drinking water has been hauled to the city from the district of al-Harmal, as per direction of President al-Asad, since 1976. In addition, the villages and towns located along the Homs-Hamah international highway have been supplied with water. On the twelfth anniversary of the corrective movement, which we are currently occupied with, the waterworks of the town of al-Salamiyah will be dedicated. This is part of the Hamah water project, with costs reaching 13 million pounds. The amount of water being supplied to the town from the project will be twice the amount of water available to al-Salamiyah before implementation of this project. Work on the project began in February 1981."

As for measures adopted to provide drinking water to the masses of Hamah Province, the governor said: "We have resorted to a new method as regards the subject of water, after creating the Directorate of Services in the province. We no longer use the method of watering places, but rather, and before the project is dedicated, we must convey the water to the houses and install meters, so that this drinking water is used by municipalities of the third and fourth degree, and does not wind up being used for other purposes."

Regarding roads, he said: "During the last 2 years, we have paved most of the main roads in the province, such as the Hamah-Jisr al-Shaghur road, passing through al-Ghab, the Hamah-al-Salamiyah road, and the al-Salamiyah-Homs road, as well as the Hamah-al-Hamrah road and the Hamah-Misyaf and Misyaf-Homs road. Moreover, maintenance has been done on the majority of secondary roads, in addition to the digging of several secondary roads in order to connect isolated villages into the main network of the province. I can only think that the residents of the rural areas of the province will understand the importance of these accomplishments."

The governor alluded to the fact that services in Hamah Province, especially after the acts of violence carried out by the gang of criminals, the gang of the Muslim Brotherhood, are being conducted by the people of the city of Hamah themselves. A visitor to the city sees a workshop every 10 meters. The people of the city also say that Hamah is now a true workshop, since construction is now underway on the bridge of the Four Norias, which began in June 1980, and which will be dedicated on the current anniversary of the corrective movement. This has only taken a year and 4 months.[sic]

A bridge will also be built in the area between al-Harayn in the city. This is the al-Malk al-Afdhal bridge, at a cost of 30 million Syrian pounds. There is another bridge currently under construction, connecting a branch of the international highway, at a cost of 60 million Syrian pounds.

Therefore, during the last 2 years, we have begun to implement three bridge jobs in the city, at a time when, for more than 20 years, there was only a single bridge, and it was the main bridge suitable for the passage of heavy vehicles.

As regards housing, the governor made it clear that work has begun to construct several residential suburbs in the city, including the suburb of Abi-al-Pada', which will contain 5,000 residential apartments, and the al-Ba'th suburb for low-cost housing, containing 1500 apartments. He referred to the fact that on the twelfth anniversary of the corrective movement, some 40 projects in various parts of the province will be dedicated or the cornerstone laid. These projects include the sectors of electricity and services, and the cornerstones will be laid for a hospital in both al-Saqilbiyah and Misayaf.

At the end of his statement to TISHRIN, the governor said: "We want to end with a word of truth about what we have said. In this province, we have not asked President Hafiz al-Asad for anything that he did not immediately approve. This is nothing new for his excellency the president. Since the beginning of the corrective movement, he has given this province more than it had since its inception.

"We sent our greetings to the president and thank him on behalf of all the citizens of the city of Hamah."

7005

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COMBAT DETAILS OF SOVIET CAMPAIGN OF 1982 ANALYZED

Geneva INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW in English Vol 15 No 11, 1982 p 1523

[Article by David C. Isby]

[Text] The war in Afghanistan has not abated since 27 December 1979, when the Soviet Union invaded the country and found itself involved in a campaign that has turned out to be one of the bloodiest guerrilla struggles of the twentieth century. The fighting in 1982 has been especially bitter, as the Soviet Army and its allied régime in Kabul have tried to come to grips with the frustrations of this type of warfare.

The Soviets have started to meet the challenge of trying to defeat traditional Afghan warriors with an army intended to defeat NATO or the Chinese, but they still have a long way to go. They have encountered a genuine "people's war", and the Soviet forces cannot claim to control much territory beyond the direct fire range of their weapons. While the war is by no means the Soviets' Vietnam — it has not reached that level of military or political commitment on their part — it has presented the Soviet military with its first extensive combat experience since 1945. The results of these operations, especially the early ones, cannot have been completely pleasing to the General Staff in Moscow.

The Soviet Army in action — 1982

The Soviets have learned the hard lessons of their early days in Afghanistan. No longer will an entire motorized rifle battalion be massacred, as happened on at least one occasion in early 1980. Nor will small, lightly escorted road convoys be sent into inevitable ambush, as they frequently were in the opening stages of the war.

The Soviets have improved their tactics mainly by making effective use of their helicopter forces. Soviet helicopter strength in Afghanistan is estimated at 500-650 machines, up to 200 of which

may be Mi-24 *Hind* attack helicopters. Air mobility has allowed them to carry out "cordon and search" operations throughout the country. An area is quickly encircled by troops landed by helicopter, who then slowly and methodically close the ring. The deployment of separate Air Assault Brigades in Afghanistan has given the Soviet Army additional capabilities for helicopter-borne offensive warfare. Primary transport for these units is the Mi-8 *Hip*, while the armoured *Hind* is the primary close air support weapon. *Hinds* are also employed on a wide variety of ground attack and interdiction missions. Without the *Hind*, the Soviet position in Afghanistan would be much weaker.

Many of the disasters of the 1979-80 period were the result of poor tactical training and attempts to apply stereotyped "DS solutions", intended for conventional warfare, to a guerrilla situation. The greatly increased number of articles on mountain fighting, anti-sniper tactics, and other applicable subjects appearing in Soviet military journals are evidence of the further re-thinking in Soviet tactics that has come about. Descriptions of combat lessons have also started to appear in print, usually thinly disguised as accounts of "training exercises". The Soviets have also admitted that their standards of individual marksmanship have been inadequate. Soviet riflemen end up spraying Kalashnikov bursts in the direction of Afghan guerrilla fire, usually at ranges where single, aimed Lee-Enfield shots are more likely to find their mark. (Afghan resistance leaders have privately admitted that the marksmanship of their own men is frequently unsatisfactory as well, a fact which they attribute to the lack of ammunition and facilities for proper training).

In 1982, accounts coming back from

Afghans and western observers, as well as Soviet open sources, have pointed out that motorized rifle units are now less road-bound. No longer served up in small units that were limited to the relatively few routes that were passable to BTR-60PBs and BMPs, the Soviet infantrymen are now employed in more extended, dismounted operations. Additional PKM general purpose machine guns and AGS-17 automatic grenade launchers have been provided to give them supporting firepower when operating out of range of their vehicles. Attack helicopters are also used to deliver the supporting firepower that, in conventional conflicts, the motorized riflemen would expect to come from their vehicles and tanks.

Soviet companies now form specialized "anti-sniper" squads to deal with individual Afghans, while platoons and other smaller tactical sub-units have been described as adopting "bounding overwatch", or "fire and movement", tactics, with one component section moving forwards while the remainder of the sub-unit covers its advance. This contrasts with the overall emphasis on speed, shock, and rapid advance that have been seen in Soviet conventional tactics.

Learning old lessons

In this, as with much else in Afghanistan, the Soviets have been rediscovering many of the mountain-fighting tactics at which the British Indian Army excelled, and adapting them to Soviet organization and weaponry. Another example is the Soviet practice, developed since the invasion, of "cresting the height". Soviet road convoys moving through mountainous terrain are escorted by a flight of four attack helicopters, usually Mi-8 *Hip* Es, sometimes Mi-24 *Hinds*, that are also used to land rifle squads on key heights to secure them as the convoy passes. The helicopters then stay in support of these outposts, subsequently picking up the troops and re-inserting them further along the convoy route. With two pairs of helicopters "leap-frogging" in this way, effective protection can be provided, especially as the Soviets have now consolidated their convoys and frequently use forces of up to battalion size as escorts, rather than the small convoys with two or three escort vehicles that proved such attractive targets for ambushes in the early part of the war.

However, even these large convoys have been defeated in large-scale Afghan operations, as when, in June 1981, forces operating from the Panjshir valley reportedly attacked a Soviet convoy at a choke

point on the Salang highway that leads from the Soviet Union to Kabul. According to Mohammed Ishaq, the Panjshir commander in this action, most of the 120 trucks in the convoy were destroyed by the Soviets and their crews evacuated by helicopters and armoured vehicles when it became obvious that the Soviets could neither extricate the convoy nor hold on until the arrival of reinforcements.

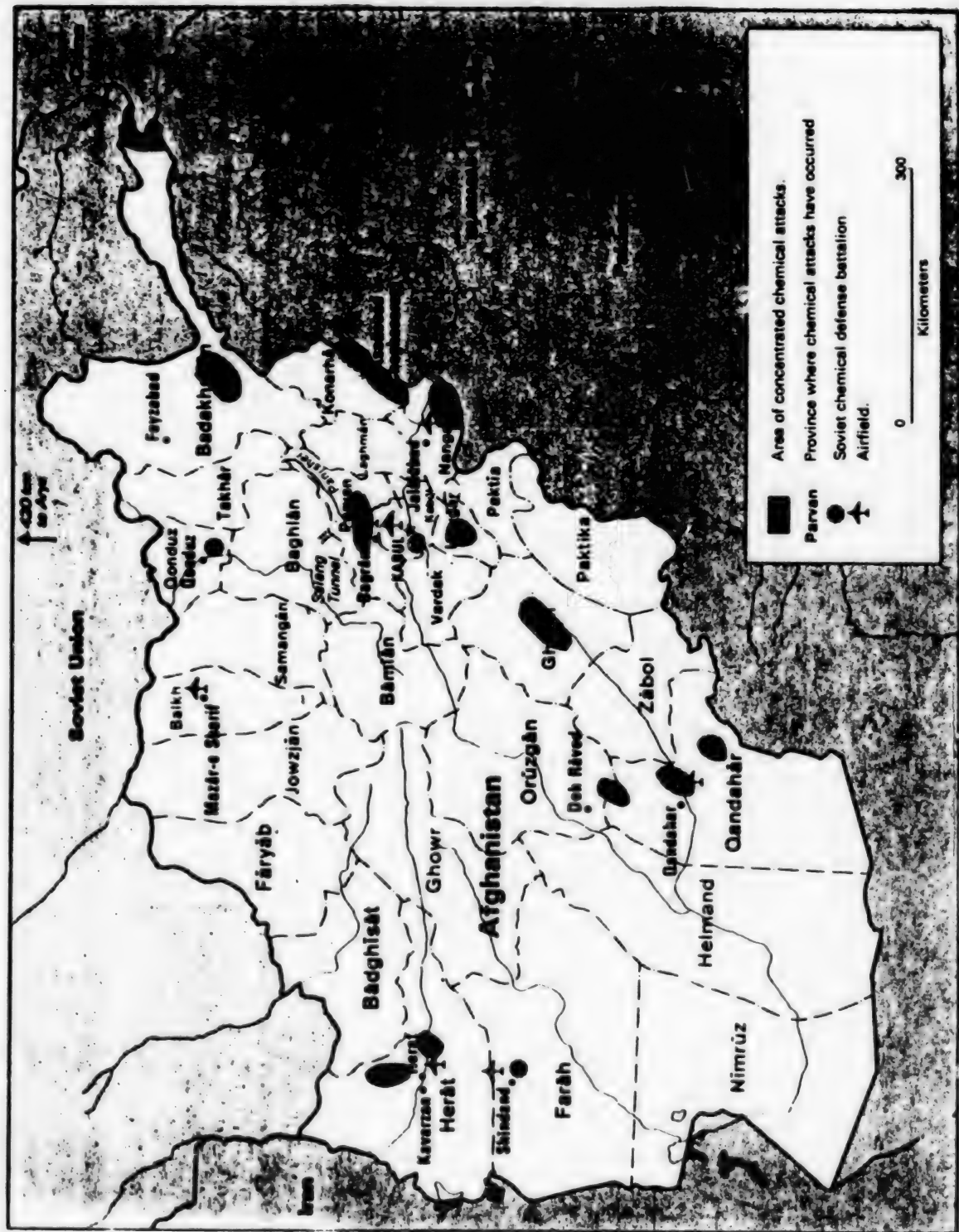
Competence in question

Despite these improvements in Soviet tactics, major deficiencies remain. These cast doubt on the level of tactical competence throughout the Red Army. It has been reported by both Afghan and Western sources that, during the Soviet offensive into the Panjshir Valley in April 1982, Soviet mechanized units did not advance at night and also failed to set up proper night positions. Rather, they simply pitched tents by their vehicles — and suffered heavily for it. A British photographer who accompanied a group of Afghans who staged an ambush along the main Kabul-Jalalabad highway at about the same time reported that, although the escort included two companies-worth of BMPs, at no time did the Soviet motorized riflemen attempt to dismount and outflank the Afghans — a task which would have proven easy to accomplish in this particular situation.

The reasons for such failures are hard to discern. They may be partially due to the apparent Soviet policy of attempting to rotate as many officers as possible through Afghanistan on relatively short tours of duty. If this is the case, they are recreating one of the key American failings in Vietnam, when it was said that the Americans did not have thirteen years of Vietnam experience, but thirteen times one year's experience. The type of fighting in Afghanistan also puts the greatest weight of command responsibility on the shoulders of those whom the Soviets themselves admit are among the least prepared for it — junior officers and senior NCOs. It is also a type of war in which the Soviet tendencies towards centralization and pre-planning are not seen in their most effective light.

Afghans report flights of *Hinds* overtaking guerrilla groups caught out in the open, without attacking them. In these cases, say the Afghans, the *Hind* pilots had obviously been briefed to attack another target, frequently the one the guerrillas had just left. The tendency of Soviet attack helicopter crews to act "as directed", even if it makes no tactical sense or if it results in casualties from anti-aircraft fire, has been pointed out in Soviet literature. This is another lesson of the war in Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Soviet Chemical Warfare Operational Areas (source: US State Department)



Soviet Army Order of Battle, Afghanistan 1982

Army-level Headquarters			
108th Guards Airborne Division three to six Airborne Rifle Regiments one Artillery Regiment	Balehisar Fort, Kabul	1193, 1195, 1197 Motorized Rifle Regiments (380) Tank Regiment 920 Artillery Regiment	Kandahar
54th Motorized Rifle Division 81, 118, 337 Motorized Rifle Regiments (54) Tank Regiment 86 Artillery Regiment	Bagram Airfield, Kabul	346th Motorized Rifle Division "Deoband Division" 1164, 1165, 1168 Motorized Rifle Regiments (346) Tank Regiment 915 Artillery Regiment	
66th Motorized Rifle Division 33, 108, 341 Motorized Rifle Regiments (66) Tank Regiment 181 Artillery Regiment	Herat	5th Motorized Rifle Division "Oral-Volkovsk-Bialystok Division" 142, 190, 336 Motorized Rifle Regiments (5) Tank Regiment 27 Artillery Regiment	Faryabad
201st Motorized Rifle Division 92, 122, 191 Motorized Rifle Regiments (201) Tank Regiment 220 Artillery Regiment	Farah	16th Motorized Rifle Division 156, 167, 249 Motorized Rifle Regiments (16) Tank Regiment 224 Artillery Regiment	Mazar-e-Sharif
360th Motorized Rifle Division "Nevet-Polotsk Division"	Jalalabad	Up to five Air Assault Brigades	various locations
	Kabul		

Note

Determining Soviet divisional deployments and compositions is always difficult, even in peacetime. The monitoring of the Soviet order of battle in Afghanistan is made more difficult by the Soviet practice of seldom committing full divisions to single operations. Even when a division-sized force is used, it is normally a composite force formed from more than one division. The reports of Soviet divisional designations in Western open-source literature have been somewhat contradictory, and it is possible that the 346th Motorized Rifle Division is actually the 357th (1188, 1190, 1192 Motorized Rifle Regiments, (357) Tank Regiment, 932 Artillery Regiment); the 201st Motorized Rifle Division may be

actually the 275th (980, 982, 984 Motorized Rifle Regiments, (201) Tank Regiment, 7 Artillery Regiment); the 66th Motorized Rifle Division may be actually the 68th (313, 480, 7 Motorized Rifle Regiments, (66) Tank Regiment, 139 Artillery Regiment); and that the 5th Motorized Rifle Division is in fact the 201st Motorized Rifle Division. Regimental designations in the Soviet Army have, in most cases, remained the same since 1945, maintaining the traditions of that war. However, there have been some changes, including the provision of a tank regiment in motorized rifle divisions which normally has the same designation as the division itself. Thus, all regimental designations must be considered as less than certain.

Soviet Troop Strength

Divisions and separate brigades
(30% war establishment)
Non-divisional troops
(support and combat)
Air Force
Advisors to Kabul Régime forces

90,000
50,000
10,000
2,000

In addition to these forces, there are substantial MVD and KGB forces reportedly present in Afghanistan. "several hundred" advisors from the German Democratic Republic are reportedly reorganizing the Afghan police; and several thousand Soviet civilian advisors are employed at all levels of the Afghan civil sector. Most Soviet Army units are deployed in company to regimental sized positions throughout the divisional area of operations.

that has taken longer to implement than to recognize.

Soviet weaponry

Soviet weapons in use in Afghanistan include most of their standard ground forces' systems. These include late-model T-72 main battle tanks and M1973 152mm self-propelled howitzers, as well as older systems. As the majority of the Soviet divisions in Afghanistan were originally low readiness (Category B and C) formations before mobilization, the Soviets are operating several generations of equipment side-by-side. The 360th Motorized Rifle Division's divisional artillery, for example, is still equipped with the M-30 122mm howitzer. Kabul régime forces still use the T-34 as a main battle tank.

Several interesting field modifications have been seen, adapting Soviet equipment to Afghan conditions. Because the guns of tanks and BMPs used on convoy escort could not elevate high enough to engage Afghans on hill crests, the Soviets put ZU-23 twin 23mm anti-aircraft guns in armoured mounts on the back of ZIL-135 trucks and used them as convoy escort vehicles. Photographs have appeared with what may be 30mm AGS-17 automatic grenade launchers replacing the 73mm 2A20 cannon and Sagger ATGM launcher on BMD airborne infantry combat vehicles. A rearward firing 7.62mm machine gun has been added to Soviet attack helicopters to deal with any Afghans who stand up to fire as the helicopters pull up from an attack.

"Poison bullets" and chemical warfare

In addition to improvised and modified weapons systems, 1982 has seen further use of Soviet weapons that the war has brought to prominence. The new family of AK-74 5.45mm calibre small arms are in widespread use — the Afghans call their projectiles "poison bullets" because so few of those hit by them survive. The plastic PFM-1 "butterfly mine" is widely dropped by helicopters in an attempt to prevent Afghan movement by night.

The most significant manifestation of the Soviet arsenal in Afghanistan has been the extensive use of chemical weapons. In the last year, both the United States and Canadian governments have presented extensive and convincing evidence of the large-scale use of a wide variety of chemical agents by the Soviets in Afghanistan.

Reports from Afghans and from doctors in the refugee camps in Pakistan continue to add more evidence.

The Soviets have been using chemical weapons since before the December 1979 invasion, delivering them from fixed-wing aircraft in Afghan markings. At first, the agent used was a standard non-lethal type, apparently a concentrated form of CN gas. Yet the Soviets soon increased the types of agent employed. US State Department evidence has shown that the Soviets have made extensive use of a new type of incapacitant, codenamed "Blue-X" that is apparently highly effective.

Lethal agents used in Afghanistan include standard persistent and non-persistent nerve agents such as *Sarin* and *Soman* as well as, most significantly, tricothecene toxin, or "yellow rain". This is an extremely lethal agent based on organic toxins. It is basically wheat mould synthesized and made more deadly. Because tricothecene toxins kill in particularly painful and spectacular ways, their use has great psychological impact. Many Afghans, having seen the results of an attack with these weapons, do not wait for the Soviets to come back and try again, but leave for Pakistan and safety — where they cannot support the guerrillas.

The Soviets deliver chemical weapons almost exclusively by aircraft — both helicopters and fixed wing — using both bombs and aerosol sprays. They do have an apparent policy of limiting the use of chemical weapons, especially the lethal agents, to the more remote areas and zones where Soviet troops are not operating. Thus the Panjshir Valley, although a frequent battlefield, has not seen any chemical warfare attacks. For a Soviet strategy in Afghanistan that must put a high value on economy of force, however, chemical weapons are ideal. US State Department reports, published in the spring of 1982, gave a minimum total of 47 Soviet chemical warfare attacks, causing 3,042 deaths. The actual totals are believed to be much higher. (According to a very senior Afghan leader, the Soviets have now suspended the use of offensive chemical weapons, possibly as a result of the Western exposure of their use).

The Soviets have apparently followed up the results of chemical strikes with heliborne offensives. It appears that the Soviet Air Assault Brigades are frequently used for these operations. At least one and probably as many as five of these brigades have been in action in Afghanistan. Each comprised of three battalions of riflemen, who appear to be paratroopers, the Air Assault Brigades have been the cutting

Afghan Army (Kabul Régime) Order of Battle, 1982

7th Infantry Division	Kabul	18th Infantry Division	Mazar-i-Sharif
8th Infantry Division	Kabul	19th Infantry Division	Herat
9th Infantry Division	Chughai Sersai, Balkh Province	20th Infantry Division	Nahrin, Baghlan Province
11th Infantry Division	Jalalabad	25th Infantry Division	Khost
12th Infantry Division	Gardez	4th Armoured Division	Kabul
14th Infantry Division	Ghazni	7th Armoured Division	Kandahar
15th Infantry Division	Kandahar	15th Armoured Division	Kabul

Total strength of Kabul régime forces is now about 25,000 Army troops. This means that these divisions will be, at most, battalion or brigade-sized formations. 18,000 police and 5,000 militia supplement the Army.

The Afghan Army has considerable recruitment problems, despite the widespread extension of conscription, and much of the Army will desert to the guerrillas or to Pakistan if the opportunity presents itself. Thus, units are likely to be under strength. Despite this, the Soviets still employ Kabul Régime troops in most of their offensive operations.

Afghan Army infantry formations have some armoured personnel carriers, mainly BTR-152 and BTR-60 types, but they rely chiefly on commandeered civilian trucks for motor transport. T-54 and T-34 tanks are used, as is a variety of older Soviet equipment. No SA-7 missiles, RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launchers, or anti-tank mines are left in the Afghan Army inventory — the Soviets having reclaimed all that remained during 1980.

edge of many Soviet offensives in Afghanistan. While they lack the organic helicopters of US Air Assault units, they are normally lifted into battle by Mi-8 *Hip* transport helicopters. Although they were first formed as regular elements of Soviet formations in the 1970s, it was in Afghanistan that they became visible as a key feature of Red Army operations. The helicopter is the most important item of Soviet equipment in Afghanistan, and its increased importance in Soviet ground forces operations everywhere is possibly the most significant development to come out of the war.

Infrastructure building

Among the most important events of 1982 has been the Soviet work in building an infrastructure in Afghanistan. This includes the expansion of the airfield at Shindand, in the west of the country, which is now capable of operating strategic bombers. The airfield at Kandahar has also had its runway lengthened and storage depots expanded. A permanent bridge has been built over the Amu-Darya River, Afghanistan's northwestern frontier with the Soviet Union.

In 1981, the Soviet Union annexed the Wakhan Corridor, the only part of Afghanistan to border on China. According to Afghan sources, the Soviets have embarked on extensive road-building in this

area and have even brought in Tadjik settlers from the Soviet Union to displace the Afghan population. The Soviets have also expanded the railheads at Jeyretan-Khairatan and Turagundi, both directly across the border from the Soviet Union.

There have been repeated, but unconfirmed, reports from Afghan sources that the Soviets have started work on a railroad linking Kabul with the Soviet Union. If this is true, it would be a monumental engineering task involving much tunneling, and would indicate that the Soviets have little doubt that their presence will be a permanent one. It would also alleviate many of the logistics problems that the Soviets are currently experiencing—all but high-priority airlift items must be brought in by truck convoy. To alleviate the need for some of the convoys, the Soviets are increasing river traffic along the Amu-Darya, possibly using hovercraft. The port facilities at Khairatan and Shir Khan have been expanded for this traffic.

The Afghan resistance

The Afghans are currently in the midst of a national rising against the invaders. The closest parallel in this century is the Yugoslav partisan campaign during the Second World War. Support for the Kabul régime is limited — otherwise Soviet intervention would not have been required in the first place. Always a strongly decentralized society, the Afghans now see the

rule of Kabul to be totally illegitimate.

The last year has seen a shift in Afghan resistance organizations from the local to the regional and, most noteworthy, increased cooperation between regions. With the removal of the central authority, the traditional village or tribal units became the building blocks of the guerrilla movement. While these continue to be the most widespread organizations, the regional forces make use of both local loyalties and greater strength.

The best known of the regional groups is in the Panjshir Valley. Its charismatic leader, Ahmad Massoud, is a former graduate student. The Panjshir has its own resistance government and a force at present numbering 2,000-3,000 fighting men. Known to those there simply as "the Country", the Panjshir has attracted many internal refugees. Their arrival has greatly strained the local resources, and has made the valley the target for major Soviet offensives in 1981 and 1982. In the 1982 fighting, Afghan groups from other regions moved to the support of the Panjshir forces. Other regional organizations exist in Balkh province and in parts of Chazni, Wardak, and Bamian provinces. These groupings will give the Afghans a much greater war-fighting capability than they have had in previous years.

As in any guerrilla war, it is hard to establish the precise numbers of fighting men the Afghan resistance can deploy. US Government sources estimate that about 90,000 are in the field at most times. The Afghans claim 120,000 full-time cadres, with a maximum of 250,000 in action. Weaponry and logistics problems prevent them from putting more men into battle.

Evidence from Afghans themselves, and from photographs of guerrilla forces, show that the supply of foreign weapons has remained limited. The standard Afghan firearm remains the Lee Enfield Mark III rifle, often a locally-produced copy. Most of the modern arms and almost all the heavy weapons have been provided by defectors from the Kabul régime's forces or have been captured in battle. Some groups, especially in the north, have considerable amounts of Chinese-made equipment, especially AK-47 copies. But the Afghans still lack heavy weapons, particularly those which can be used against helicopters. They received some SA-7 surface-to-air missiles from Afghan Army defectors before the Soviets reclaimed all their SA-7s from the Kabul régime in 1980. Since then, a handful (less than ten launchers) have been received from foreign sources. The other crucial weapons of the Afghan guerrilla, RPG-7s and anti-tank mines, are also in extremely short supply. In 1982, according to one Afghan leader, the flow of arms began to improve. Western-made weapons were seen for the first time. American-made plastic anti-tank mines have been used in action, and there are unconfirmed reports of other systems also being employed. The ultimate source and the path to the guerrillas that these weapons take is, of course, uncertain.

Logistics are also proving difficult for the Afghans. Throughout most of the country, only small bands of guerrillas can operate because of their need to depend on the local population for food. This makes them particularly vulnerable to the Soviet "scorched earth" tactics of attacking villages and destroying crops and other food supplies. ♦♦

CSO: 4600/146

TRIBUNAL DENOUNCES SOVIETS ON DESTROYING VILLAGES

Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Dec 82 p 6

[Text] According to testimony gathered on the spot by researchers from the "Permanent People's Tribunal" (formerly the "Russell Tribunal" on Vietnam and Latin America), about 100 Afghan villagers who had taken refuge in an underground irrigation canal in Logar province reportedly died on 13 September of burns produced by a flammable product poured down the canal by Soviet soldiers.

The researchers, Michael Barry, a university student; Ricardo Fraile, a judge; and Michel Baret, a photographer, met clandestinely in the place concerned in the first few days of December. They report that the banks of the canal were "abnormally blackened, to all appearances by a flammable agent."

According to witnesses whom they questioned, Soviet and Afghan forces at dawn encircled the village of Padkhwab-E-Shana (about 60 kilometers South of Kabul). Some of the residents of the village tried to hide by going down into a well located in the village square and connecting with an underground canal. The soldiers reportedly discovered them and called on them to come out. When they refused to do so, the soldiers reportedly began by building a dike on the canal below the village, which led to a rise in the level of the water. It was then that a "flammable product" was reportedly poured into the canal and that an "enormous explosion" reportedly took place. Eleven children were among the 105 bodies recovered the following day from the canal.

Michael Barry, who presented this evidence to the press on Tuesday, 7 December, in Islamabad, stated that he would testify before the "Permanent People's Tribunal" which is to meet in Paris from 16 to 20 December for its second session (the previous session took place in Stockholm in May, 1981.). The opening session will take place on Thursday, 16 December, at 8:30 pm at the Sorbonne. Discussion will continue on 17 December at the Pantheon Conference Center (16, Rue de l'Estrapade) and on 18 December once again at the Sorbonne, in the Richelieu Amphitheater. The conclusions of the "Tribunal" will be made public on Sunday, 19 December, at 10:30 am in the university senate, in the Salle Rene-Coty.

(The "Permanent People's Tribunal," which seeks to fill "a jurisdictional vacuum due to the absence of a court with worldwide competence," and to

defend the rights of man wherever they are threatened, is composed of the following personalities:

(Honorary president: Vladimir Dedijer, historian, Yugoslavia; president, Francois Rigaux, professor of private international law, Catholic University of the Louvain, Belgium; Richard Baumlin, professor of constitutional law at the University of Berne and a member of the Swiss Parliament; Madjid Benchikh, professor of international law, Algeria; Eduardo Galeano, writer, Uruguay; Francois Houtart, sociologist, professor at the Catholic University of the Louvain, Belgium; Edmond Jouve, professor of the international relations of the Third World at the Sorbonne, France; Leo Matarasso, lawyer, France; Ernesto Melo Antunes, member of the Council of the Revolution of Portugal; Sergio Mendez Arceo, bishop of Cuernavaca, Mexico; Anjit Roy, economist and journalist, India; Laurent Schwartz, mathematician, professor at the University of Paris-VII, member of the Academy of Sciences, Paris; Salvatore Senese, judge, Italy; and George Wald, vice president of the "Permanent People's Tribunal.")

Massive bombardments by Soviet and Afghan forces resulted in at least 100 dead in the course of the past 2 weeks among the civilian population in several villages near Kabul, it was learned on Tuesday, 7 December, from a Western diplomatic source in Islamabad. (AFP).

5170

CSO: 4619/8

WAR'S DESTRUCTION, PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES SURVEYED

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS — The massive destruction of crops and agricultural lands in Afghanistan, by the Soviets has alarmingly raised the possibility of widespread famine.

A vast territory of Afghan provinces close to the Pakistani borders is already hit by severe food shortages. Paktia and Ghazni are the worst-hit areas.

A bag of seven k.g. of wheat flour is being sold at 210 Afghanis these days while it was sold 80 Afghanis per bag lately, at the new higher prices the wheat is very scarce and not always available.

Shortages of wheat and other agricultural products is causing the shortage of cattle as well, which is being slaughtered in great numbers to replace the wheat demands.

The number of refugees crossing over to Pakistan is increasing because of the looming danger of severe famine conditions. Thousands of families are forced to migrate to Pakistan.

Several Afghan tribal delegations are trying to purchase wheat from across the border, but as the tribal areas of Pakistan do not produce wheat the Afghan tribes' demands are met from other parts of Pakistan, which herself is not self sufficient in these products.

According to Agency Afghan Press New Delhi correspondent, the prices of every

article for daily consumption are skyrocketing in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan.

According to A.A.P. sources, Mahmood Khan Mehmmand from Jalalabad, says edible oil is currently being sold at the rate of 670 Afghanis for seven k.g. Potatoes are being sold at 75 Afghanis per k.g. while they were available at 25 Afghanis per k.g. before rice, eggs, bread, onions everything is very scarce and if available at all, it is at a price which is beyond the ordinary people's pockets and means. But even so, the fiercely independent and brave Afghans are coping with this problem as well as they can and will not succumb to this Soviet inflicted hardship.

Psychological Warfare

Meanwhile, failing in its attempts to subdue the Muslims of Afghanistan through brute force, the Soviets have, through Afghanistan's puppet administration, created a new governmental department which is employing new techniques for ideological brainwashing.

The department seeks to attract young Afghan youths and create associations between them and handsome, and shrewd young women and men mostly from the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

Authoritative sources told Agency Afghan Press Correspondent in Kabul that the department has been provided with abundant material resources to tempt the Afghan

people and attract them to Socialism as interpreted by the Russians. The incentives include monetary help, visits of Socialist countries and holding of film shows and other recreational events for them.

According to the sources the new department whose branches are widespread in all the ministries and other organizations is named "Call For Friendship With Socialist World." The department has launched its plans in the ministries, departments, corporations autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, universities, colleges and schools. The aim is to establish intimate relations with all employees and students.

The branch offices of the department are run mostly by attractive young girls drawn from Soviet bloc countries. The materials used by this department are books, films, magazines, newspapers, clothes and money. Those who visit the office are guided and provided information of all sorts. Those who do not attend are called by telephone for discussions.

This office offers free traveling facilities to those who are found rigidly against communism. Such people are also offered free of charge travel documents and visas for pro-Soviet countries in order to create conducive atmosphere for Sovietization.

In schools, factories, hospitals and other institutions the public and students are provided economic aid according to their needs. In primary schools they keep toys, sweets and sports materials to attract attention of the children.

The sources further said that these offices are trying to control Afghans through non-Afghan Communists and are propagating their own ideology in Afghanistan through sophisticated methods.

DEPUTY TOURS REGION WARNING AGAINST U.S. STRATEGY

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 Dec 82 pp 1, 6

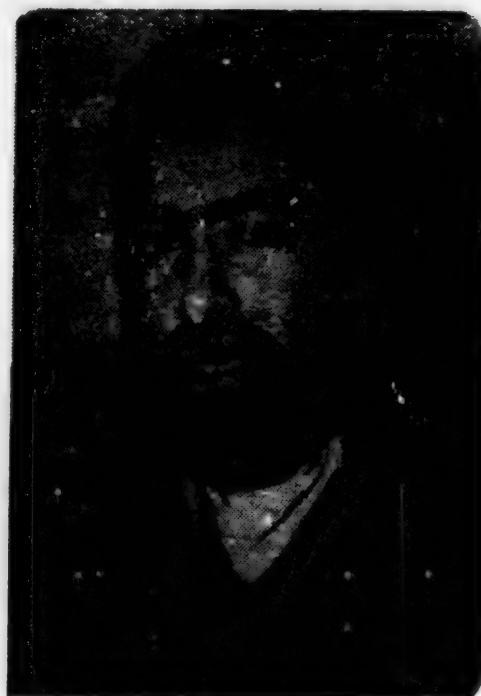
[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Huseyn Sheykholeslam]

[Text]

Deputy Foreign Minister Huseyn Sheykholeslam who was recently on a tour of Libya, Algeria, Syria as well as UAE, is back in Tehran. A reporter from the Persian daily Ettela'at spoke to Sheykholeslam regarding the purpose of the visit, the collapse of the second conference of the Organization of African Unity, the effects of Saddam's defeat in the Moharram operations, the activities of the foreign ministry, and several other subjects. Excerpts of this conversation follow:

Q. What was the purpose and result of your recent visit to the UAE, Libya, Algeria and Syria?

A. In the Name of God the Beneficent the Merciful. The Islamic Republic of Iran is at war with the U. S. on two fronts: one through its client Saddam, and this is a front which we are entangled with at present. The other front is the struggle against the U.S. through opposing the Zionist regime. We support the front-line countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.



Fortunately, in the Iraqi imposed war, the events are going in our favor and with the recent victories of the Islamic fighters, especially, after the recapture of Khorramshahr and the thrust into Iraqi territory, our victory is becoming clear. This is felt and understood by political circles. However, in the second front, there

has been little progress.

Our purpose in visiting Syria, Libya and Algeria was to exchange views and improve cooperation with our brothers there, as well as to formulate a joint strategy against the U.S. The visit was very fruitful.

In Syria we had a positive exchange of views with President Hafez Assad and Foreign

Minister Abdul Halim Khad-dam. In Libya, we had discussions with Major Abdussalam Jallud. In Algeria, we met with the foreign minister, Taleb Ebrahimi and his deputy and in Yemen, we held talks with Ali Antai, the deputy foreign minister.

In the UAE, due to the absence of Shaikh Zayed who was in Rabat, we had meetings with Shaikh Khalifah, the crown prince, Shaikh Sultan, ruler of Sharjah, and the ruler of Ajman.

What we are witnessing today is the changing of the Palestinian issue from a military problem to a political problem. The Fez conference was in pursuance of American strategy for its long range policies in the region. Perhaps, it would be better if I explain this strategy as I see it, which in fact was the basis of the analysis for which we undertook the trip.

Motivation for Visiting Steadfastness States

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, one of the major bulwarks of America in the region crumbled. You certainly recall when during one Friday prayer Hojjatoleislam Rafsanjani pointed to America's three pillars of power during the shah's regime:

The regional reactionaries, Israel and the shah of Iran.

Also, the shah played another role in America's strategy, that of connecting NATO to South East Asia. The shah's third role was as policeman of the region. Shah's regime protected the Hormoz Strait as well as the regions' resources. Every military facility was put at his disposal for policing the region.

Moreover, there were several spy bases here for two reasons: because of Iran's borders with the USSR, and also,

to control the Indian ocean, Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. The spy bases in Iran, kept constant surveillance on Soviet nuclear and space experiments. It is interesting to note that despite these bases, the US signed the SALT agreement.

However, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and the dismantling of these bases, the US halted the SALT negotiations, because it had no other choice. Also the US espionage bases in South Iran that gathered information on the Sea of Oman, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean, sent their data through the center in Doushan Tapeh (a military airport in Tehran) and a computerized center in Mehrabad Airport. This was all put at the disposal of the US through the AWAC's.

Moreover, shah supported the U.S. in regional wars and even wars outside the region. The Shah pursued U.S. interests in Vietnam where Iranian Phantoms fought against the Vietnamese as well as the Arab-Israeli war.

Thus, with the collapse of the shah's regime and the victory of the Islamic revolution, there was a sudden vacuum in the American strategy.

The shah extended economic help too, to Israel — whereas we have not only stopped the flow of oil to Israel and South Africa and driven out the US and MOSSAD but we prepared ourselves for the realization of one of our slogans, that is, "Today Iran and Tomorrow Palestine."

Disunity Between Nations

The Israeli Embassy was handed over to Palestinians. Thus, the biggest supporter of Israel in the region turned into Israel's biggest and deadliest enemy. But the most important thing was that the US had

long standing experience in the region and had disunited and divided the nations here.

For instance, they had encouraged the shah to take pride in the 2500 years of continuous monarchy in Iran. The same was the case with the Arabs. Egypt should be proud of its dark pre-Islamic history and be proud of its Pharaohs. They encouraged Arabism and Iranian nationalism thus they created disunity among the regional countries.

This has long been colonialism's strategy and recently the US strategy for the Muslim nations. That is, before we were Muslims, we were Iranians. Before we could be proud of Islam, we were proud of Persian culture. And before the Arabs could think of Islam, they took pride in being Arabs.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the strategic foundations of America suddenly crumbled. Because, not only did we reject nationalism but spoke of Islam and the Islamic aspect of our revolution which heralds the unity for the entire peoples of the region.

Thus the US strategy suddenly became ineffective. Because, our message was and penetrated the masses, since the Muslim masses who prayed discovered their interests in the Islamic Republic, especially when it had disgraced and defeated the region's greatest power.

The revolution's attitude was based on freedom and one of its slogans was "Freedom for Qods". With the fall of this policeman of the region was kindled the glory of Islam in the heart of the Muslim masses.

Thus, the US felt the dangers and conspired to destroy the revolution. Here we should point out to the plots

that were devised to destroy the revolution, and I refer to the Saddam's imposed war on Iran.

This was begun with the sole purpose of crushing the Islamic Revolution. However, our enemies disregarded the invisible help.

Another important thing to note was the occupation of the U.S. spy nest for more than 14 months. This action shattered the U.S.' pride. This resulted in diminishing US influence in the region and despite their repeated efforts they failed in freeing these spies. Other US tactics and plots such as the economic blockade as well as the Tabas attack, failed miserably, with the help of God.

Imposed War

The imposed war is the last major U.S. gamble to destroy the Islamic Republic. However, the result has been just the contrary. The Islamic Republic has emerged stronger. After the imposed war failed miserably the US tried to change this war into an Arab-Persian war. Antagonism between the Arabs and Israel changed into clash between Arabs and Persians. Thus, we see that Israel bombs Iraqi nuclear installations. The US spreads rumors about purchase of arms by Iran from Israel and Israel confirms them. Because our enemies want to push the Arabs against us, and example of which was the Fez conference. The conference declaration stressed recognition of Israel and an aggressive attitude towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Struggle Against Israel

In this regard, we have been very active and our global political efforts are an indication of this fact. You certainly recall our resolution in the United Nations for the rejection of Israel's credentials. The

reactionary Arab factions begged us to withdraw this resolution, but we stood firm.

When this attempt failed a western country was coaxed to issue a declaration against the Iranian resolution. The interesting thing to note is that only the progressive Arab countries backed the Iranian resolution. The countries that voted against the Iranian resolution were Morocco, Sudan, Jordan and Egypt. These are the countries who toe the US strategy of turning the Iraq-Iran war into an Arab-Persian war. Also, they send troops to help Saddam's forces.

A major topic of our discussions with the leaders of the countries we visited was the mode of struggle against Israel.

Effects of Iran's Victories on Negotiations

Q- In the Moharram operations, our forces dealt a severe blow to Saddam's regime. What is your analysis regarding the effects of this victory in the present war as well as on the political situation in the region?

A- When we were visiting these countries, the third phase of Moharram operations was successfully implemented with notable victories. This boosted our political power and prestige.

We were requested by the officials of the host countries to explain the future outcome of the war, which we did with the help of several maps regarding our military operations against Iraq.

Saddam's existence is crucial for the US. The greatest outcome of these victories is the destabilization of Saddam's political standing.

For the first time that it was declared that we have pushed into Iraqi territory it was certainly a notable achievement in this 27 month old war.

We know that today Syria is under US and Israeli pressure. The US has armed Israel to the teeth and as said before, Syria is under great pressure and is left isolated. With Saddam's fall and the establishment of Islamic Republic in Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with Syria, Libya and Algeria will be able to plan a joint strategy against these imperialist plots. The Zionists plan to occupy Syria and reach the shores of Tigris and Euphrates.

Comments of French Foreign Minister

Q- The next question is in connection with the recent visit of Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister to the region. Here Cheysson stressed the necessity of Western countries supporting Iraq in order to preserve the military-political balance in the region, what is your opinion in this regard?

A- The US strategy calls for protecting strategic regions with the cooperation of its allies. For instance, the Suez canal and Lebanon where multinational forces are deployed. If the problem of Vietnam is the problem of all the western countries, why should only the US should lose its forces there? Thus the US involves its allies in its political and military problems.

The US intends to do the same thing in the Persian Gulf, too. But this will surely lead to a fiasco, for the least of tension in this region will cause chaos in the economic system of the West. The U.S. intends to justify its mastery and presence in the region and this is one of the reasons why it attempts to prolong this war as far as possible. Washington says there is tension here, and when there is tension its presence is "essential" and "legal".

The U.S. also wants to involve other Western countries in this issue but we hope the European countries will be wise enough not to trifle with fire. To date the U.S. has been defeated by the Islamic Republic of Iran several times and the most recent instance is this very war. The dawn of its final victory is evident now.

We give this warning to other Western countries too that the Persian Gulf region, the Sea of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz must only and only be safeguarded by the littoral countries. As we said at the beginning of the war and have always shown the safeguarding of these waterways is in the hands of our naval force. We have thus far provided this security and will also provide it in the future. We announce that the presence of the U.S. or any other foreign power in the region will be regarded as an open threat against us and as we did not remain silent vis-a-vis Saddam, we will not remain still in front of them, either. We have the experience of the U.S.'s aggression against Tabas. The U.S. will seek this justification every moment and in this way intends to entangle other Western countries too.

Q- For the Second time the OAU summit of late November was faced with failure at the very outset of its work. What is the analysis of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard?

A- I should say in connection with this conference that the U.S. has hatched many plots in order to defeat it. The first time the issue of Western Sahara was raised and this time the issue of Chad. Anyhow this conference is an anti-colonialist organization and has been designed for the unity of African countries.

Especially at this juncture, its chairmanship was to be transferred to Libya and the leadership of this organization would have been entrusted to that country for one year. Regrettably it should be said that the defeat of this conference is in fact a victory for the U.S.'s plots. The first time, too, this conference failed to convene. In this trip we talked with the Libyan brothers on the probable plots of the U.S. and they expressed their views in this regard and announced after stating their position that they would attempt to hold this conference as successfully as possible.

But regrettably I should say here that due to the dependent regimes, the U.S. has succeeded once again especially considering that a few weeks before the holding of this conference it had shown its claws in Morocco. That is to say there were joint maneuvers of the U.S. and Morocco.

The trip of Mr. Bush to the south of Africa was also in this connection. We ask the African countries to treat more seriously and wisely in connection with this conference. No one will benefit from the defeat of this conference except the racist and mercenary forces relying on the superpowers in Africa. We are sorry for the occurrence of this incident. But we are sure that this conference will finally be held with the incessant effort and cooperation of the African countries.

Q- If possible, please explain the President Khamene'i's message to Mr. Sekou Toure and the peace missions that I think had been asked not to come to Iran as long as they had no new proposals.

A- Of course this point that they should not come to Iran if they do not have a new proposal is the statement of Mr.

Hashemi Rafsanjani. He said this after one of the sessions of the Supreme Defense Council. But in connection with the president's letter to Mr. Sekou Toure or basically to the peace missions, our assumption towards the function of the peace missions has been that they come to Iran in order to listen to our opinions and then attempt the realization of our equitable conditions. But regrettably the superpowers took advantage of these missions' and the imperialist mass media launched poisonous propaganda in this connection saying that Iran is bellicose and does not accept the peace mission's proposals. Thus these missions became a two-edged sword against us.

That is to say if we did not accept them the media propagandized that we did not accept the conditions proposed by the missions whereas the issue is not this at all.

The issue is that the war should be ended in a permanent way and of course one way to achieve this permanent peace is that there be no Saddam and in fact the cause of the war would then be eliminated.

Another way to end the war is to accept our conditions that is to say not only should the forces of Saddam leave our soil and not only should the material damages be recompensed by Saddam's regime, but the aggressor should also be condemned and punished. This will be a lesson for other countries of the region not to embark on such activities against the Islamic Republic and other countries.

These were equitable conditions that we explained and announced from the very beginning of the war and we will always maintain them. Everybody who wants to mediate the ending of this war,

which is also desired by us, should regard our just conditions. It was for this reason that Mr. Khamene'i wrote that letter to Mr. Sekou Toure and Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani gave that interview saying if the peace missions have nothing new they should not come to Iran because the imperialists take advantage of their trips and this will also cause their future work to more difficult.

Q: Lately a proposal was forwarded by the president advocating the initiation of a fund to take charge of providing for the expense of the administration of international organizations. Would you explain its consequences?

A: This issue is in connection with our struggle against Israel and its main supporter, the U.S. You know that in the wake of our activities for expelling Israel from international organizations which were successful in a few cases and which finally led to a political clash in the U.N., the U.S. threatened that should Israel be expelled from the U.N., it would cancel its aid to this organization.

This was not only condemnable from this aspect that Israel was being supported, but the policy that the U.S. followed by using its power and attempting to solve the problems by force and this time by the force of its money was also atrocious.

For this reason the president wrote a letter to Mr. Fidel Castro and suggested that a fund be formed by the Non-Aligned Movement to counteract the U.S. when it intends to use the force of money to support Israel. This fund will be a substitute for paying the costs that the U.S. pays for these organizations.

Mr. Velayati also wrote a letter to the foreign minister of Cuba, since the country is currently in charge of the Non-Aligned Movement. Both letters called for the setting up of a fund by this movement. This action has been taken in accordance with the struggle against Israel.

CSO: 4600/164

'NVOI' URGES FOILING U.S. PLOTS BY RECOGNIZING FRIENDS

TA082044 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT
8 Dec 82

[Unattributed Commentary: "In Order to Foil U.S. Plots, It is Necessary to Recognize True Friends"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The extensive U.S. military maneuver on Oman's territory, with the participation of U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces, has rightly aroused strong anxiety in the public opinion of our region's countries. As you are aware, more than 2,500 U.S. soldiers and officers are taking part in these maneuvers and are making use of various modern armaments.

Since a long time ago, America, exploiting the subservience of the Sultan of Oman and the military and political dependence of this Sultanate on Washington, has embarked on expanding military bases and establishing new war bases in this country. The armed forces of this Sultanate are entirely under the supervision of British and U.S. military advisers. In short the life blood of the traitor Qabus is in the hands of his American masters.

Simultaneously with frantic efforts to concoct a so-called defense alliance with the participation of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE and Oman, Washington has embarked on constructing and expanding a series of military bases in each of these countries. In other words, at present by means of these bases the Pentagon has actually placed revolutionary Iran under a military blockade on its southern frontiers.

Let us not forget that America has numerous bases in Turkey, Pakistan and Israel, and it can use these bases at any time against liberation and anti-imperialist movements in our region and against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Americans neither hide nor deny the fact that they are inherently hostile toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, and have exerted and are exerting all their efforts in order to install in Iran a regime similar to the annihilated Shah's regime and allegedly compatible with U.S. values and interests.

The frantic efforts of the United States to establish military bases in our country's vicinity, and the holding of military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf

region with the participation of the aggressive rapid deployment forces, pursue far-fetched aims, one of which is to create fear in the hearts of the region's struggling nations, giving encouragement to reactionary regimes dependent on Washington and also strengthening counterrevolutionary elements in our country and inciting them to carry out more extensive subversive activities.

Amid all this, one must not ignore the inauspicious and dangerous role that the regimes ruling Turkey and Pakistan are fulfilling in implementing America's aggressive aims. Right now in the United States, Ziaul Haq is engaged in concluding new deals with the leaders of the White House. Although apparently one of the topics of his discussions with the managers of the White House is further support for the Afghan counterrevolutionary mercenaries, the fact is that the primary and ultimate goal of the United States is to undermine and topple the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and should the need arise, by utilizing the regimes ruling over Turkey and Pakistan.

There is no doubt that our ever-on-the-scene nation has not refrained and will not refrain from any sacrifice in the face of the plots by world-devouring America and its allies, but it is also extremely important that officials of our Islamic Republic embark on recognizing their true friends and foes in the region and the world, devoid of mental prejudice and superficiality and the intimidations of Bani-sadr and Qotbzadeh.

In order to consolidate its domination in oil-possessing countries and to suppress any liberation and anti-imperialist movement, America resort to every crime and plot. America's seasonal maneuvers in our region are a link in the chain of U.S. aggressive preparation against the region's nations, particularly against our struggling nation and its glorious revolution.

The statement of our homeland's prime minister is just when he said: We must not ignore America's subsequent plots. We should anticipate America's instigations in the region's countries. We must make ourselves invulnerable in terms of foreign policy and relations with the countries of the region, so that U.S. plots will be neutralized.

CSO: 4600/144

TEHRAN ARABIC ON U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN GULF

GF111716 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Dec 82

[From "International Affairs" Program: "U.S. Military Strategy in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean Regions"]

[Excerpts] The United States has succeeded in creating up a number of points of influence in the Persian Gulf region due to the reciprocation and assistance a number of ruling regimes have offered. These regimes are not sincere to their peoples or to the region.

Let us take the Sultanate of Oman as an example. We find that the ruling regime of Qabus has granted the United States all it has demanded and much more--military facilities, bases and points of influence. The Island of (Masirah), which lies in the Persian Gulf and which is under the Sultanate's rule, has been turned into an important military base for the U.S. forces. The United States has installed advanced equipment for spying and monitoring the Strait of Hormuz and southwestern Iran. It is also preparing this island to receive U.S. naval and air forces. The amount that the United States has spent on this island is estimated at \$100 million.

In addition to the Island of (Masirah), the Sultanate of Oman has placed at the disposal of U.S. forces some new places such as the Timrit Air Base near Salalah in southern Oman. The United States has spent more than \$70 million to improve this base and prepare it to receive the U.S. forces. The Omani regime has also allotted places for storage in the area of Sib, near Muscat, in addition to the runway near the Strait of Hormuz, at the disposal of the United States. The United States has allotted nearly \$40 million to lengthen the runway which is located on the side of the Strait of Hormuz through which 70 to 80 trade ships pass through everyday, carrying about 60 percent of the West's oil supplies.

In Bahrain, which is another Persian Gulf country, there is a floating U.S. base under the command of an admiral and it consists of five warships. This floating base is considered a forward force for the U.S. Naval force, outside the Persian Gulf about 300 km from the Omani coast, which consists of about 20 warships and air carriers and 10 warships which are always on the move and frequent the base of Diego Garcia.

Egypt is also another important spot in the U.S. strategy. Cairo is now considered the starting point for the Persian Gulf. In fact, the al-Sadat administration did not honor its pledge to complete all necessary facilities for the U.S. rapid deployment force. The U.S. phantom fighter planes began to use the Egyptian facilities at the air base west of Cairo. In November 1980, the rapid deployment force held its first exercises in the Egyptian desert. The Egyptian regime afterward granted the United States large military facilities in the area of (Ra's Binan) on the Red Sea. In (Ra's Binan) there is a small seaport and an airport. The United States widened and deepened the seaport and lengthened the runway to enable it to receive B-52 bombers. The Reagan administration allotted \$106 million for this purpose. Some experts estimate the U.S. presence in Egypt now to be 9,000 military and civilians in addition to the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo which numbers 400, a number which makes it the biggest U.S. Embassy in the world.

Thus, dear listeners, you realize that the modern U.S. strategy wants to plant a network of spots of influence all over the world particularly in the vital regions of the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. No doubt, the United States greatly depends on a number of the ruling regimes in these regions to achieve its political goals and aspirations.

CSO: 4600/144

IRAN

IRANIAN DAILY ASSAILS U.S. MANEUVERS IN GULF

GFI30935 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Dec 82

[From Press Review]

[Text] The newspaper KEYHAN has published an article entitled "America Flexes Its Muscles in the Gulf." The article read: "The military maneuvers being staged by the U.S. and Omani forces in the Strait of Hurmoz come under the policy of muscle-flexing pursued by the United States since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran. During the past years, the region underwent several shows of muscle-flexing by the United States which is timorously worried over the unknown future of the region and the U.S. interests. The bright star maneuvers were staged with the Sudanese, Moroccan, and Somali forces, and lately maneuver with Oman where the United States has bases and facilities thanks to its agents in the forefront of whom is Qabus.

The newspaper continued: No matter how the masters and their agents try to keep the latest maneuvers a secret, the maneuvers have been uncovered in detail and reveal the falsity of all the slogans upheld by the Gulf rulers about the security of the region and the noninterference in its affairs. Question: What is the objective of the security agreement to be signed by the Gulf countries? For what purpose do they want a unified military strategy and what foreign forces did they mean by the summit decisions?

KEYHAN added: Where are those blabbers who only make statements and decisions? Why did they not lift a finger when they saw more than 1,000 Americans landing on the Gulf coasts? Why did they agree to keep this piece of news a secret? This is the reality of those people and this is the reality of the so-called GCC. Let them realize that the Islamic revolution is not frightened by the maneuvers and threats by the masters and agents. The past years have proved this and the coming days will prove this too, unless these people sober up. Verily, we are their advisers.

CSO: 4600/144

OPPOSITION ARMY CHIEF REPORTS PENETRATION OF COUNTRY

GF101135 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT
9 Dec 82

[Text] The Iranian Liberation Army has begun its historical movement to liberate our country. The forces of the Iranian Liberation Army have penetrated several kilometers inside Iranian territory. Some villages are already under occupation by the Iranian Liberation Army. Gen Bahram Ariana is in command of the Iranian Liberation Army. The Iranian soldiers outside Iran have been ordered to join the Iranian Liberation Army as soon as possible.

Gen Ariana, the commander of the Iranian Liberation Army and chairman of the military wing of the Azadegan Organization, has announced: As a soldier, I shall advance to the heart of Iran. The commander of the Iranian Liberation Army has advised that with the conclusion of the first phase of the operation for the liberation of Iran, the second phase of action for toppling of the black despotic regime of the clergymen will begin. Gen Bahram Ariana, who recently visited the Iranian Liberation Army units stationed within Iran, said: Our elements have now penetrated the heart of the enemy. We have set up camps inside the Iranian territory.

During the first clash of the Iranian Liberation Army with the revolution guards of the regime, the liberation combat forces lost 2 men as martyrs, while they killed 27 revolution guards.

Officers, NCO's, peshmargas and volunteers of the Liberation Army of Iran need much arms and war materiel.

According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent in France Gen Bahram Ariana, who was speaking at a gathering of hundreds of patriotic Iranians in Paris, while announcing this news said: I have come to the French capital to request help from all the freedom-loving and patriotic Iranians. The commander of the Iranian Liberation Army called on the army personnel and the forces within the country [Iran] to be ready to join his forces and wherever the flag of the liberation army appears and urged all the armed forces members who love the country and its liberty to join the Liberation Army of Iran.

Gen Dr Bahram Ariana expressed confidence that with the cooperation of the forces within the country and the participation of the personnel of the Iranian Army who are living outside the country, the program for the liberation of Iran will become feasible.

Gen Ariana added: The future is bright. Iran will be happy and this dark and sinister period will soon end.

The commander of the Iranian Liberation Army who is also chairman of the military wing of the Azadegan Organization said that after arrival in Tehran and after toppling the Khomeyni regime, a provisional military council will be set up, made up of high commanders who will take over the government and restore peace, security and administration to the country.

Gen Dr Bahram Ariana, while explaining the preventive and operational military programs, said: I am a soldier of the Iranian nation. We should not take our shame to our graves. The first phase of our operation is preparedness and all initial stages have been completed. The second phase is a military operations for overthrow of the regime. He said: We will never be revengeful, however, the persons in the higher and top levels of the Mullah regime who have committed crimes and destruction will be tried in the national courts according to law. But, we will not be answerable for any punishment the Iranian nation metes out to the criminal rulers before the Iranian Liberation Army arrives in the capital. However, our military council works under law. For example, even a man like Khalkhali will have the right to choose a defense lawyer and the right to defend himself. However, this can happen only if the oppressed Iranian people allow him to live that long.

Disbanding the revolution guards, the committees, and ouster of Libyan and Syrian workers from Iran and returning of Iranians to their country, ending of the devastating war, stabilization of peace and security, reopening of the universities and institutions of higher learning, reorganization of the army and the police and gendarmerie, and deletion of all the reactionary laws of the Mullah regime, are part of the programs of the Iranian Liberation Army in the phase following the toppling of the Mullah regime.

CSO: 4600/144

TEHRAN TURKISH ATTACKS WESTERN RADIOS

GF240940 [Editorial Report] Tehran International Service in Turkish at 1830 GMT on 22 December was heard with extremely poor reception carrying another of its weekly commentaries entitled "What Are Foreign Radios Saying." The radio alleged that it had become the habit of foreign radios to air programs at the end of each year reviewing developments in Iran with the intention of distorting facts about the progress of the Islamic revolution in order to mislead world opinion on matters related to Iran.

After quoting a special cast aired by VOA recently under the title "Developments in Iran Last Year," the radio stated: "Let us recall here and now that in addition to the monthly aid extended to Iraq by the leaders in the region, a number of countries in the region have placed over \$50 million at the disposal of insane Saddam with a view to facilitating the massacre of the peoples of Iraq and Iran. They hoped that they would succeed in containing the spreading of the Islamic revolution in the region. Irrespective of the important part the Saudi leaders and other agents of imperialism and Zionism in the region have had in the effort made to continue the war, foreign radios have been continuing to present them as great peace-loving entities and great saviors [as heard] in the effort made to end the war between Iraq and Iran.

"Here is what the BBC said on 6 December: The king of Saudi Arabia is making an effort to convince other Arab countries to mediate between Iran and Iraq in bringing the war to an end.

"According to the propaganda made by foreign radios, the United States is another of the countries which is supposedly favoring an end to the war and upholding a cease-fire and peace between the two warring sides. The U.S. aid in terms of funds and arms, [words indistinct], the new helicopters to Saddam and the U.S. loan of \$210 million constitute evidence proving U.S. (?sincerity) in this respect."

After citing Western press reports on U.S. aid to Iraq, the radio stated:

"The following statement aired by VOA last week is indeed strange: The policy pursued by the United States to-date regarding the war has been one of refraining from selling any type of military equipment to any of the warring sides.

"Another matter the VOA official who has prepared the special cast referred to was the question of rumors regarding secret relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the regime occupying Jerusalem. We hope that you will not be bored by the following remarks we will quote now: 'Israel's [words indistinct] has disclosed that the Israeli government has sold arms and other types of military equipment to Iran in the course of the war between Iran and Iraq.'"

The radio concludes by stating the following regarding this rumor: "This rumor has been cited throughout the year on various occasions by Western radios. This propaganda attained its peak at the time the occupiers of Jerusalem attacked Lebanon. Undoubtedly, the deceitful Zionists have exerted great effort to present the sacred Islamic revolution's populist front to the outside world as an ugly entity. Nevertheless, the Muslim revolutionaries in Iran have rendered the conspiracy hatched by the Zionists ineffective through their revolutionary move--that being the declaration by a numerous group of young volunteers at the time the rumor was ained by Western radios about the secret dealings between Iran and Israel that they were prepared to join the ranks of the Muslims fighting against the Zionists. Actually, it was at this time that Begin revealed how daunted and horrified he and his colleagues were in the face of the Islamic revolution. In fact, in a long statement he strongly attacked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an unexperienced way. Through this [word indistinct] move he unintentionally foiled the propaganda [word indistinct] of the imperialist and Zionist media organs."

CSO: 4600/163

'KEYHAN' REVIEWS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH

GF101610 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Nov 82 p 5

[Interview with Iranian Industrial, Management Officials by KEYHAN Correspondents--date, place not given]

[Excerpts] According to the officials and responsible people, irrespective of the imposed war, the shortage of raw materials and equipment or a tight budget and limited port facilities, the industry of the country is on a good standing. Production can be increased to 30 percent if these problems are solved especially the lack of foreign currency. In relation to the present normal industrial situation of the country, the minister of industry said: "We have had some problems on the foreign currency level in that instead of receiving a \$7 billion budget to provide for the raw materials needed during the last year we got half that amount of money.

Our industrial growth during the last year has been 12 percent and hopefully it will not be less than that next year. In the first half of this year, compared to the first half of the previous year, we had a 6 percent growth increase, which was unexpected. Production has been very good for products for which the raw materials are available in Iran, like cement and tiles. For example, in comparing the cement industry's production during the first half of last year with the first half of the present year, we see a 19 percent increase."

The industry minister continued: "If the problems of foreign currency and management are solved and incentives are introduced for management supervisors and laborers, then factory production can even increase by 30 percent. In general, the situation in industry is good and acceptable and better than in 1978.

Dr Mohamad Taqi Banki, the minister of state and in charge of the plan and budget organization, speaking on the subject of how to solve the problems of the industry of the country, said: "The biggest problem in our country's industry is the dependence on the nature of industry. The only way to solve these problems and get out of this dependency is to concentrate on and learn about the problems and make plans to solve them. Fortunately, the plans are near completion. In these plans recognized expectations and methods

are used, for example, employment of future capital for production of priority goods, improving services, providing aid by setting up industries in different areas, particularly in areas that have none, and coordinating industries with mining.

The minister of state in charge of the plan and budget organization, on other points concerning industrial planning, said: "In this planning project, the importing role of industries has been clearly marked and detailed policies have been set for separating Iran from oil exporters--which is the wish of the Islamic people of Iran--with the hope of being able to import industrial products to help industry grow so that we will become active in the markets of the countries surrounding us and appear in their commercial markets."

Commenting on the industrial problems of the country, the president of the industrial commission of the Islamic majlis said: "The first thing that should be done for the industry is to mark the road clearly and make the objectives clear and then plan accordingly.

He continued: "We have one criticism from the cabinet. That is, whenever any shortage is seen in society, instead of looking at and using the goods in the country they tend to make up the shortage from abroad. Right now, due to the shortage of raw materials, many factories are working at minimum levels. Factories making airconditioning or refrigeration units have this problem. Our recommendation is that instead of purchasing the materials needed from outside, we should get them from inside the country."

He continued: "Another problem is the shortage of good principles and expertise.

CSO: 4600/144

IRAN CLANDESTINE: RAJAVI GROUP CONDEMNS ELECTIONS

GF110630 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT
9 Dec 82

[Text] The National Resistance Council of Iran has issued its second communique in connection with boycotting the elections for the council of experts. This communique, issued in Paris, said that on the eve of the sham elections for Khomeyni's council of experts and in view of several historical, economic, social, and political reasons, the end of the Khomeyni regime has been exactly like the end of his shameless life and there is no visible successor available within the regime.

Therefore the anti-people Majlis, and anti-Islamic council of experts, contrary to all the deceitful internal and international propaganda, not only does not guarantee perpetuation of the regime but in fact is another proof of the tenor of the regime which would only enhance and sharpen the conflicts within the regime.

The Council of National Resistance led by Abolhasan Bani-sadr, the former president of the Khomeyni regime, and Mas'ud Rajavi, political leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, condemned the members of the council and all those who are forcing the defenseless people to attend these elections to elect a sham leader, and who are beating and intimidating the people. As for national self determination, it is the traditional right of all our people but it is being trampled by these people, these persons who are the leaders of the oppressive regime, whose hands are red with the blood of the people and sons of the country, and whose rule will soon end. These people will pay their criminal dues very soon.

The communique also said that now another sinister experiment is being run under the Khomeyni regime. All clergymen in the cities and various villages have become targets of condemnation and hatred by the Iranian people. The National Resistance Council has made sure all the freedom loving and informed people of our captive country will not take part in the sham elections for the Council of Experts.

CSO: 4600/144

'NVOI' ASSAILS IRAN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

TA102030 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT
10 Dec 82

[Text] Dear compatriots: The NEW YORK TIMES in its issue of 8 October 1982, in its editorial about the acceleration of crisis in Iran, nearly recounted the precise arguments of the open letter by the liberation movement, except with more bluntness and intensity. Devoting attention to this point is extremely important to our homeland's people, particularly to the committed leaders and government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Everyone is aware of the reactivation of the liberation movement in recent times, but perhaps there could be certain persons who may not be able to correctly discern the reason for this. The true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the revolution's and Imam's line rightly consider the activation of the liberation movement to be directly connected with America's fresh plot against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent plot by the great Satan as well is no more than the further and all-out intensification of all trends that create discontent in order to undermine the Imam's popular and anti-imperialist line in the Islamic leadership, and consequently to establish a moderate and middle-of-the-road government in revolutionary Iran and to restore the great Satan to our liberated homeland.

At the Friday prayer of 8 October in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, supervisor of the martyr foundation, said the following in this connection: One of the groups that these days has started to complain again is the liberation movement. They have said that in the approximately 4 years that have passed since the revolution, what have you done for the people? We reply that this deprived nation and the authorities are striving and toiling to repair your devastations of several months and years.

Our homeland's people recognize well all the associates of the liberation movement during the recent period. They are well informed of the meeting of their leader with the Zionist Brzezinski. It was these very leaders of the liberation movement who strived with utmost power to prevent the execution of such traitors as the Nassiris, the Hoveydas, the Moqqadams and others.

It was they who assigned the Savakists sensitive posts in the Islamic government. It was they who imposed the Keshmiris and the Kolahis on the revolution. The attempt to negate the great Satan by raising the name of the Soviet Union was and remains the permanent task of this very liberation movement. Diverting the revolution and leading it to conciliation comprised and continues to comprise the main line of the liberation movement. It was these members of the liberation movement who stole Savak documents and other classified government documents, many of which were transferred out of the country with their assistance. The Amir-Entezams, the Yazdis, the Maraghe'is, the Nazihs, the Madanis, the Salamations and dozens of other traitors were placed by the liberation movement in sensitive civil and military posts. These members of the liberation movement defended such traitors as Bani-sadr and Qotbzadeh with utmost power, and during 2 years by means of these agents and mercenaries of the great Satan entrenched their dependent elements in sensitive posts, and dealt blows to the country's economy as much as they could.

Yes, as part of the counterrevolutionary forces, the liberation movement, at the direction of the great Satan, has started a new plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Keeping a snake up one's sleeve and forbearance in the face of the presence of a rightist trend opposed to the revolution's and Imam's genuine line, part of which is the liberation movement, is a great and unforgivable mistake.

CSO: 4600/144

'NVOI' WARNS AGAINST TIES WITH TURKEY, PAKISTAN

TA131308 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT
11 Dec 82

[Unattributed Commentary: "Do Not Bring in Through the Window Foes That Have Been Thrown Out From the Door"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Despite the attempt by certain officials in the ministry of foreign affairs to project a number of so-called Islamic regimes as the friends of revolutionary Iran, facts and the deeds of these regimes themselves prove otherwise.

It is even brighter than the sun that the Turkish and Pakistani regimes, on the east and west of our liberated homeland, have assumed the dirty role of the implementors of America's Satanic plans, the cutting edge of which is aimed above all at revolutionary Iran.

As far as the coupist Turkish regime is concerned, everyone is aware that on orders of the United States this regime has stationed a large number of counterrevolutionaries, dregs of the former regime and officers of the former imperial army on Turkish soil and has established special camps for them in which they receive the necessary instructions against revolutionary Iran under the supervision of U.S. advisers. On the other hand, this so-called friend of Iran is more than ever transforming Turkey's territory into a U.S. base. The Turkish regime--member of the NATO pact--is providing all the necessary facilities for the United States to plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran and overthrow the Islamic Government.

The so-called Islamic regime of Pakistan, too, is not less than the Turkish regime in its subservience to U.S. imperialism. Ziaul Haq's regime has transformed Pakistan into a window through which America--which has been thrown out the door--would be able to enter Iran. One cannot think of any plot by U.S. imperialism in the region, including against Iran, in which the Pakistani government has not been involved. Ziaul Haq's regime is the associate of U.S. imperialism.

According to the Indian paper PATRIOT, the United States is forming a new military alliance in the Persian Gulf instead of CENTO in which Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain will participate. According to this newspaper,

the main role has been assigned to Pakistan in the formation of this new military alliance by the United States in the Persian Gulf, and in order to implement its so-called strategic plan America is providing Islamabad with immense financial and military aid. Ziaul Haq himself has implicitly acknowledged this and has said that although Pakistan is not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council yet it considers itself as one of the Gulf region's countries. Needless to say, these regimes, which in the view of some officials in our ministry of foreign affairs are allegedly the friends of Iran, are entirely the executors of the plans of U.S. imperialism. But our homeland's people do not know whether to believe the statements by some officials of the ministry of foreign affairs about these so-called Muslim neighbors, or the evidence by these so-called friends manifested in the form of imperialist plots against Iran. The people, in practice and through experience, have recognized their friends and foes and know that both the Turkish and Pakistani regimes, the leaders of both of which have pledged allegiance to the managers of the White House, cannot be the friends of revolutionary, anti-imperialist and anti-American Iran. For this reason the attempt by certain persons in the ministry of foreign affairs to establish close relations with these regimes rightly arouses doubt among the people who consider these efforts as resulting from the activities of the Højjatis.

Realistic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be indifferent toward this adoption of a wrong stance in a sensitive organization such as the ministry of foreign affairs, and allow America to strike at us and our revolution by means of Turkey and Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/144

REPORTAGE ON VOTING TURNOUT, RESULTS IN 10 DECEMBER ELECTIONS

Voter Turnout

LD101200 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 10 Dec 82

["Massive Turnout in Assembly of Experts' Elections"--IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, 10 Dec IRNA--Millions of Iranians over the age of fifteen went to the voting polls, throughout the country today to vote for the Assembly of Experts.

The voting polls opened at 7:00 a.m. this (?morning) and will remain open for ten hours. Some 146 religious scholars have been nominated for the election, 17 from Tehran, out of which 83 will be elected. Those elected would either elect a single successor to Imam Khomeyni or a leadership council in the absence of a national consensus on a single person.

This is the eighth election held since the victory of the Islamic revolution in February 1979.

According to reports, in Tehran despite the cold weather, there are long queues of people in front of the voting stations. Several mobile voting polls are to collect votes of those working in hospitals. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the police force are in charge of traffic of the city and motorcycles lacking special cards are banned from driving in the streets during the voting hours.

The Iranian Minister of Interior, Nateq-nuri, visited several voting polls in southern Tehran this morning. He told IRNA that from what he had seen people had given an enthusiastic welcome to the elections and if deemed necessary the voting hours will be extended.

Reports from provincial cities indicate that the elections are being held normally, he said.

Various officials of the country including President Khamene'i, Chief Justice Musavi-ardabili, [words indistinct] Akbar Rafsjanjani, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution Musavi Tabrizi and Majlis deputies cast their votes in Tehran this morning. Members of the family of Imam Khomeyni also cast their votes this morning.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution of 1979, the following crucial elections have been held in Iran:

On 1 April 1979, the revolution people of Iran actively participated in the elections was an overwhelming vote for the Islamic Republic.

After this referendum, the Muslim people of the country voted for the experts assembly whose members would formulate the constitution of the Islamic Republic. This took place on 3 August 1979.

The elections to approve of the draft of the constitution were held on November, 1979, which was also received enthusiastically by the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran.

The Iranian people cast their votes on 25 January 1980 to determine the first president of their post-revolutionary country. Abolhassan Bani-sadr was elected president but with the elapse of time the true nature of this foreign-aligned agent was exposed so that he was first dismissed from his post as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces (on 11 June 1981) and then he was stripped of his post as president by the Majlis (on 22 June 1981).

Elections (in two stages) were held for the Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) on [date indistinct] 1980 and 9 May 1980 respectively.

After the ouster of Bani-sadr, the people rushed to the polling stations to decide a real Muslim and revolutionary president. They elected (martyr) Mohammad 'Ali Raj'i with an overwhelming majority of votes. This election was held on 23 July 1981.

And finally after the committed president of the Islamic Republic (i.e. Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i) was martyred (on 31 August 1981) by the terrorist MKO agents in Tehran, Hotatoleslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was elected as the third president of the Islamic Republic on 2 October 1981.

The socio-political deputy of the interior ministry, Abbas Akhundi, announced in a press release that the people's participation in the elections has been unprecedented.

He said that based on the latest information from the provincial regions of the country, the people are rushing to the polling stations with a great spirit to cast their votes for the experts assembly candidates. He said that the people had once again thwarted the conspiracies of the western and eastern super powers and proved that they would remain glowing in the political scene of the Islamic Republic.

Akhundi said that despite a relatively early wave of cold weather in the country and problems caused by the war, the turnout was especially significant in the war-stricken Ilam and Khuzestan provinces.

He said that up to the latest reports received at 12:30 hours, there had been no unexpected incidents during the voting process and some of the provinces had been provided with more voting ballots upon request, immediately by the air transport facilities of the army.

Election Results

LD121256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Summary] The following are the official figures and voting results for the Majlis by-elections and the Council of Experts elections as of the present time [1030 GMT]:

For the Council of Experts:

In Kermanshahan Province 557,557 votes were cast. (Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi won 497,519 votes; (Morteza Fahim won 344,637 votes; (Mohammad Hasemian) won 317,906 votes. All gained absolute majority.

In Sistan and Baluchestan Province 264,152 votes were cast. (Seyyev Mehdi 'Ebadi) won 201,922 votes; (Mowlavi Eshaq Madani) won 147,112. Both gained absolute majority.

In Chahar Mahall and Bakhtiari Province 197,634 votes were cast. (Ebrahim Adamiyeh-najafabadi) won 184,802 votes. He gained absolute majority.

The total votes counted in the elections to the Council of Experts in 11 provinces up to the present time number 5,645,087 ballots.

In the Majlis by-elections:

In (Kahnud) constituency 37,361 ballots were cast. Brother (Huseyn Pursalari) received 23,831 votes and thereby gained an absolute majority.

In Paveh constituency 35,702 ballots were cast. Brother (Molla Ahmad Bahrami) received 17,297 votes and thereby gained an absolute majority.

In (Boyin Zahra) constituency 64,264 ballots were cast. Brother (Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Amirzadeh-gili) received 61,643 votes and thereby gained an absolute majority.

In Rasht constituency 190,575 ballots were cast. None of the candidates obtained an absolute majority, therefore, there will be a second round of elections.

In Piranshah and Sar Dasht constituency 23,007 ballots were cast. None of the candidates obtained an absolute majority, therefore, there will be a second round of elections.

In Shiraz constituency 340,670 ballots were cast. Brother Dr (Mostafa Mo'in-najafabadi) received 185,540 votes and gained an absolute majority.

In Sanandaj constituency 107,350 ballots were cast. Brothers (Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni) received 72,819 votes; and (Mohammad Amin Hasani) received 54,991 votes. Both gained absolute majority.

The counting of votes in Tehran constituency for the Majlis and those in Tehran Province in connection with the Council of Experts elections has been in progress since this morning. We have not yet received any results.

CSO: 4600/144

IRAN

TEHRAN ARABIC REPORTS IRAQI POWS' REQUEST TO FIGHT

GF160958 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] About 1,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Tehran submitted a petition to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, requesting permission to fight alongside the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the army of the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi prisoners who signed the petition with their blood expressed their full support for the Iraqi Supreme Islamic Revolution Council.

The Iraqi prisoners in Khorasan also sent a message in which they express their readiness to fight against the Saddamist aggressive forces in the fronts of the war that has been imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Another group of Iraqi prisoners in Gilan Province expressed support for the Iraqi Supreme Islamic Revolution Council and demanded to be sent to the fronts to fight against the Iraqi regime's forces. This group of prisoners donated 67,000 rials to the forces of Islam.

CSO: 4600/144

BRIEFS

INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS ESFAHAN--Mr Nateq-nuri, interior minister, arrived in Esfahan by air yesterday in order to inspect the polling centers and to meet the Hezbollahi voters of the province. He was welcomed at the airport by Mr 'Abdollah Kupa'i, acting governor general, and some other officials of the Esfahan Province. Immediately after his arrival in Esfahan, Mr Nateq-nuri, along with Mr Kupa'i and others, went to visit the election headquarters at the governor general's office in Esfahan and spoke to the (people) there. Then, the interior minister attended the Friday prayers and visited some polling booths at the governor general's office. He then attended the (?services) for martyrs of Esfahan and paid homage at the resting place of the revered martyr Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani and other martyrs who had shed their blood for the revolution. He left Esfahan at about 1500 for Tehran. [Text] [GF121238 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 11 Dec 82]

VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTER VISITS--Calderon Berti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, who arrived in Tehran this morning said that he came to Iran in order to discuss the situation on the world oil market and to make preparations for an agreement during the OPEC ministers' meeting. He added; At the moment, OPEC is faced with two important issues: One is the situation of oil prices. We should defend the price of \$34 per barrel for base crude so that the oil price is fixed for 2 years. This would regulate supply and demand in the oil market. The second issue is the need for cooperation among OPEC members, and the nonproduction of oil in excess of what is needed by the market. I have come here to hear the views of Iranian officials on these issues. [Text] [LD141722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82]

COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICIALS--The central headquarters for implementing the decree of the imam of the nation held a session this morning in which the president of the Supreme Court and the prime minister participated. It was decided in this meeting that the file concerning the offenses of the prosecutor's office situated in Tehran municipality, the file concerning elections in Bukan, the file concerning Pars Electric Company, and the file concerning the Ilam governor general's complaints against the Islamic prosecutor of Ilam should be sent to the judicial authorities so that they may be investigated without delay. It was also decided in this meeting that the decree of the imam and its implications should be fully explained and while they should be conveyed to groups in charge of implementation, they also should be broadcast through the mass media so that everyone can become fully familiar with various aspects of the imam's decree. [Text] [LD231208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 82]

NEW BULGARIAN ENVOY--The Iranian foreign minister today received new Bulgarian Ambassador to Iran Stefan (Palandaku), who delivered to him a copy of his credentials. [GF280451 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 82]

BULGARIAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Tehran, 27 Nov, IRNA--New Bulgarian Ambassador to Iran Stefan Polendakov today presented his copies of credentials to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The Bulgarian envoy during the meeting with the foreign minister said bilateral ties of Iran and his country had improved following the culmination of the Islamic revolution and hoped these ties will further increase in the years to come. Velayati in response to the Bulgarian envoy's remark said Iran wants to increase its relations with the countries who give due respect to the bilateral ties. The foreign minister said the Iranian revolution toppled the regime of the Shah and ousted the United States from this country. He said no green light will be given to other power in this country. Velayati said Iran is firmly following the policy of neither east nor West and pointed out that independence is the most important factor for Iran. [Text] [GF271644 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 27 Nov 82]

OUTGOING INDONESIAN ENVOY--Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati today received Indonesian Ambassador in Tehran, Imam Supomo, on the occasion of the completion of his tour of duty. [GF131528 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Dec 82]

CSO: 4600/145

PAKISTAN

ZIA TORONTO INTERVIEW REPORTED

BK241348 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said: By the grace of God, my government has been able to bring about political stability in the country. It has also brought about an exemplary economic stability and is executing a very successful foreign policy which is appreciated everywhere. The president made these observations in an interview with the correspondents of the Toronto newspaper THE GLOBE AND MAIL.

Referring to Pakistan-Canada relations, the president said that there is a tremendous good-will for Pakistan in Canada and that Canadian development assistance to Pakistan has never wavered despite changes in the type of government in Pakistan. He said the international relations are not based on friendship but on interests, so the form of government in Pakistan has no bearing on relationship with Canada and the United States.

When asked about the elections, the president said what is needed before elections is sanity and seriousness in politics and that the political parties should be viable and effective. He added that, at the moment, we are deficient in both. The foundation for elections has already been laid and the country has 60,000 elected representatives at local level. He said that local elections would take place next year and, when Islamic principles are embedded in the political process, national elections could be held.

When asked to comment on the number of political internees in Pakistan, the president said the amnesty international's report is incorrect, highly exaggerated and concocted. He said that there are only three political internees in Pakistan and that they are under house arrest.

CSO: 4656/63

GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON PRESS CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 82 p 3

[Editorial: "Government and the Media"]

[Text]

THE Executive Committee of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society has expressed deep concern on the increasing pressures being applied upon newspapers and periodicals throughout the country by the Press Information Department which has slashed newsprint quota and curtailed Government advertisements in an attempt to force the Press into toeing the official line. The APNS in a resolution adopted at its meeting on 27th November has pointed out that this pressure being applied on most major national dailies is a direct violation of the principles of truth and justice that should prevail in an Islamic State.

Severe curbs already exist on the Press. The Government has imposed precensorship under a stringent Press and Publications Ordinance which makes it quite difficult for newspapers or periodicals to follow an independent line or be liberal in their approach. The reporting of any incident, however minor which does not reflect well on officialdom, brings down the wrath of the authorities who then begin to pressurise the paper by holding back ads or cutting the newsprint quotas. The CPNE which is organising the Quaid-e-Azam Press Convention in Karachi in January next year has called for the withdrawal of precensorship and also for a 'detente' between the Press and the Government in order to improve the relationship between the two. The Convention will also seek a withdrawal of the Press and Publications Ordinance and the promulgation of an agreed code of ethics and a Press Bench at the High Courts.

The problem of Press restrictions is not a new one nor is the method currently being used, a departure from past practice. Almost from its inception, the country has been plagued by Draconian Press restrictions imposed by successive Governments. The result has been the creation of a national Press that lacks credibility and does not in any way promote or generate political or social responsibility in the reading public. Under the guise of 'national interest' the Press has been effectively prevented from developing into a responsible institution with the ability to make a positive contribution to the development of the country. Seen in the light of the bureaucracy's mania for secrecy and its obsession for sweeping the

dirt under the carpet, this attitude is not surprising. In a country where the expression of an independent opinion usually leads to the labelling of the individual organisation as a traitor, heretic, secessionist or foreign agent, it is quite difficult in the first place to evolve an independent Press. Added to this is a Press Ordinance that effectively prevents the publication of news that is regarded as prejudicial to *governmental* interest, and arm twisting through withholding government advertisements, an important source of newspaper finance. Press restrictions cannot be explained or justified in a regime which is dedicated to the creation of an Islamic society. Freedom of speech, thought and expression is a fundamental right of every Muslim in an Islamic State. As we have seen from our own history, and especially from the personal example of eminent leaders like Hazrat Omar among others, the right to criticise or question the leaders is almost an article of faith of any Islamic political system.

The Press is a medium of public expression, it is a vital link between those in authority and the citizens and enjoys paramount importance in national life. Restrictions in the past have always been counter productive and it is highly undesirable that the present Government should seek to perpetuate the practices of the past by resorting to harsh and uncalled for measures. Contrary to bureaucratic belief, the citizens of Pakistan are adult enough to recognise what is and what is not in the national interest. To begin with, a free Press is one of the fundamental protectors of the national interest.

CSO: 4200/215

PAKISTAN

STRONG DEFENSE URGED; GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED

GF191836 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Dec 82 p 3

[Editorial: "National Defense Is Important"]

[Excerpts] President Ziaul Haq expressed his frank opinion on Pakistan's defense policy on U.S. television in the "Meet the Press" program in answer to questions put to him by U.S. correspondents.

American newspapers play an effective role in swaying public opinion in favor or against another country. The picture of Pakistan presented by the U.S. media is always a distorted one. Now that President Ziaul Haq has spoken candidly to the press correspondents, it is expected that the misunderstandings will be cleared up and the newspapers will present a truer picture of Pakistan to their readers. The Indian lobby in the United States which is second only in influence to the Jewish lobby has always portrayed Pakistan as a belligerent and contentious country. President Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is a peace-loving nation, but will not tolerate any threats. Pakistan's 80 million people are fully capable of defending their frontiers and do not need a rapid deployment of U.S. forces. Neither will Pakistan provide military bases on its soil nor will it permit the installation of electronic surveillance devices in its area. Pakistan is a free and independent country and an active member of the nonaligned movement. The Soviet news agency's mischievous rumor that Pakistan will be used as a base for the U.S. emergency force is baseless. Regarding Afghanistan, Pakistan still follows the policy supported by other nonaligned countries.

The president has also commented on the double-dealing policy of the United States in regard to its nuclear program. The U.S. policy vis-a-vis India, Israel and South Africa differs from its attitude adopted towards Pakistan. Pakistan will continue its nuclear program because it needs it to augment its power sources and for other peaceful purposes. If the United States refuses to help, it will complete it with the assistance of other countries. Making an atom bomb is neither part of Pakistan's nuclear program, nor can it afford such military luxuries.

In short, Pakistan is neither the lackey of the United States nor an enemy of the Soviet Union. For Pakistan, its defense is its chief consideration but for the attainment of which it will never become the instrument of any superpower; the criterion of its friendship is wholly and solely its own interests.

CSO: 4656/58

PDP LEADER TALKS ABOUT MRD'S ORGANIZATIONAL PLANS

GF230950 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 Dec 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Attock, 15 Dec--A prominent leader of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD] and the general secretary of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party, Rana Mohammad Zafrullah Khan, said that despite restrictions, MRD political leaders will hold a general meeting in Karachi in the near future. He refused to divulge the exact date of the conclave, and said: The schedule will remain unannounced.

Rana Zafrullah Khan was speaking to correspondents at the press club during his 5-day visit to the frontier province. He said: Despite restrictions, we have decided to continue MRD's peaceful campaign. He said our struggle will be peaceful because violence leads to the country's destruction. The enemies of the country take advantage of the violence and animosity in a country. Therefore, our program is to end violence and a peaceful struggle for the restitution of human rights.

He said: Democracy is not contrary to Islam. The Koran has ordained that the government should be carried out with mutual consultations. Criticizing the Jamaat-e-Islami, the MRD leader said that the party had thrice attempted to sabotage national unity.

He said: The party's policy is based on opportunism rather than on Islam. He said: A merger of religious parties is being suggested on the government's proposal which is aimed at strengthening the government against the MRD. He added: the government should not use Islam as a pretext for its perpetuation. In reply to a query, he said: The government has no right to amend the 1973 constitution. This is only the prerogative of an elected parliament. If the constitution is tampered with, then another constitution will not be formulated. He continued: The MRD is not following a laissez faire policy. We have begun operations underground on the level of villages and districts. We will attempt to reinstate democracy while simultaneously stemming the tide of subversion.

CSO: 4656/63

LOCAL BODIES TO CARRY OUT UPLIFT PLANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 3

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Dec. 6: The Federal Minister for Rural Development and Local Government Syed Fakhr Imam said here today that five-year development programmes would be carried out by local bodies in their respective areas.

The Minister was speaking at a dinner hosted by the Mayor of Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation Sheikh Ghulam Hussain in honour of the visiting delegation of Councillors from Sind.

He said that in view of the splendid service rendered by the local bodies for welfare of the masses, it had been decided to assign them more powers and responsibilities.

The local bodies would submit the programme of development for their respective areas to the Planning Commission for necessary guidance.

He said a five-year programme for development would be carried out for the first time at the local level as it was planned to implement it in every village.

The Minister hoped that this would contribute to greater welfare of the people because the work could be divided for better

and quicker implementation.

Syed Fakhr Imam said that the local bodies had been elected by the people and added they were working hard to fulfil the aspirations of the masses and justify the trust reposed in them. The voters and the elected representatives were two sides of the same coin and they had to work together for progress and prosperity of the country.

He said the voters always had great expectations from their representatives and it was a sacred duty of the latter to perform their task honestly and devotedly.

He said that the polls for the local bodies would be held next year and hoped that again dedicated people would be given chance to serve the masses.

He said that his visit by the Councillors of Sind to Rawalpindi and Islamabad was part of a national integration programme. It would enable the representatives of one area to examine the work done by the elected persons of other places.

Earlier, the Mayor of Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation, Sheikh Ghulam Hussain in his address of welcome said that the local bodies had done an exemplary work and to a large extent fulfilled the expectations of the government and the people.

The institutions had a prominent role in the service of the nation. About 50 per cent wards in the city had been provided with roads and other members had been greatly impressed by the work done by RMC. The local bodies he said had great potential for service to people because besides solving their problems they were helped to acquire basic amenities.

CSO: 4200/217

ECONOMIC TIES WITH IRAN LAUDED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 4

[Text]

THE prospects of increasing trade between Pakistan and Iran are, indeed, bright. It is certainly far more economic for both the neighbours to import from each other whatever they need, when they have the requisite surplus and prices and quality are competitive. Iran has a positive preference to importing more and more from Pakistan in view of its policy of giving the highest priority for imports from Muslim countries, and particularly those which are physically close to them. Following the revolution, unlike many other Muslim States, Iran has no preference for goods available in the west or other capitalist countries. Pakistan on its part desperately needs more markets in this period of sustained international recession and the fall in the external price of its exports.

Such wholesome considerations had spurred Iran and Pakistan to take major steps to enlarge trade between them when Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited Iran in November. The agreement for exchanging goods on both sides for 250 million dollars each signed then represented a major leap in the volume of trade between them compared to the modest past performance. Evidently such a large increase in trade can face impediments that are procedural and structural. Hence the Iranian Commerce Minister, Mr. Habibullah Asghar Ouiladi did well to visit Pakistan leading a 20-member delegation and discuss the current problems and prospects for the future with officials as well as non-officials. Evidently some of the bottlenecks for larger trade between them have been eliminated following the talks in Islamabad.

Iran is ready to overcome the shipping problems by permitting goods from Pakistan to be transported by trucks straight to Teheran. Iran is also ready to make Pakistan the only source for all the cotton that it needs. And Iran is now to import more wheat, rice, sugar, textiles and yarn from Pakistan so that the imports from Pakistan could be as close to the agreed 250 million dollars as possible.

If Iran wants a better quality sugar than the kind of semi-brown dust that is available to Pakistanis as sugar at a very high price it is not surprising. The quality of the sugar has to be improved distinctly if Pakistan has to enter the export market. Hence Iran should be enabled to buy 100,000 tons of proper crystal sugar instead of the kind of stuff which ration card-holders in Pakistan are accustomed to putting up with.

The prospects of increasing co-operation between Pakistan and Iran in the sphere of oil are, indeed, welcome. Iran which is selling 10,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan is also making an oil rig available to Pakistan to step up its oil exploration, efforts. Heartening, indeed, is the move for joint efforts in exploration of oil. An experts group is coming from Iran soon to finalise the details. Meanwhile Iran is ready to sell more than 10,000 barrels per day if Pakistan wants that.

The Deputy Iranian Commerce Minister Ali Nagi Khamoushi has rightly focused attention on the large information gap that exists between the two countries in respect of trade. He himself did not know, he confessed, of the range of engineering goods available in Pakistan until he visited the Pakistan pavilion in the New Delhi fair last year. Compared to that the Pakistan pavilion in the Teheran Fair had been small and did not reflect the gamut of manufactures available for export from Pakistan. He has also pleaded for more trade delegations and exchange of visits by individual exporters. He wants Pakistan traders to explore the Iranian market assiduously and increase their exports to them. Pakistan has hence rightly decided to have a large pavilion at the next Teheran Fair, and a substantial single country exhibition as well in Iran. Iran is undoubtedly ready for larger trade and expanding economic co-operation with Pakistan. It is for the industrialists and exporters of Pakistan to take full advantage of the situation. But the exports should consistently be of the right quality and their trade practices should be equally proper. That is how alone they can make full use of a large market so close by and enable both the states, too, profit amply by this great opportunity.

CSO: 4200/217

KARMEL REGIME'S CLAIM OF INTRUSION REFUTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 5

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Dec. 5: Pakistan delegate, Ambassador Jamsheed Marker refuted the charges made by representative of Karmel Regime that "armed intruders are being trained in the neighbouring countries and sent across the borders into Afghanistan", says a message received here today from Paris.

He was exercising right of reply during a general debate at the fourth extra-ordinary session of UNESCO general conference at Paris on Nov. 30, 1982.

He said so far as Pakistan is concerned, we categorically refute this wild and baseless allegation. Afghan refugee camps and tented refugee villages in Pakistan are being regularly inspected by UN agencies and they have certified time and again that there are no such training camps or arms movement on Pakistan territory, and added that foreign journalists of international repute have full freedom to move anywhere in

Pakistan and have confirmed that no such training camps exist. The President of Pakistan, the ambassador pointed out, has offered international inspection for this purpose.

He further said that the sad fact is that over four million Afghan citizens have left their country in fear, and have found refuge in Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan, he said, will continue to look after these unfortunate brethren to the best of our limited ability in the spirit of brotherhood, enjoined upon us by Islam. These events in Afghanistan have been cause of universal concern. There are various resolutions of UN General Assembly, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The latest expression of this international concern was embodied in the General Assembly Resolution adopted with the overwhelming support of 114 states.

The Pakistan delegate said "the representative of the Karmel Regime appears to be unaware of the fact that the floor and

platform of the organization which he has used today to make these baseless allegations, had sent a mission to study the educational requirements of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. There is a resolution of the executive board of UNESCO on this subject requesting the director general to extend help to these unfortunate people".

"Pakistan's abiding interest for peaceful co-existence and commitment to policy of non-interference in internal affairs of their country was well known and a matter of record, and it is sincerely co-operating with all international agencies and welfare institutions to solve this human problem.

We have clearly stated that we have been looking after the refugees purely on humanitarian grounds and we will continue to do so until foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan, the rights of the people of Afghanistan are restored, and till the necessary conditions are created when Afghan refugees return to their homes in safety and honour."—APP

CSO: 4200/216

MODERN AIRPORTS PLANNED; MONEY BUDGETED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Dec. 5: The Secretary-General of defence Maj. Gen. (Retd) Mohammad Rahim Khan said here today Rs. 400 crores would be utilised for constructing modern airports at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and setting up and improving other air terminals.

The Secretary General told APP the funds would be used in a five-year plan by the newly created Civil Aviation Authority which would begin functioning from Dec. 7.

The authority instituted through promulgation of an Ordinance by the President would develop infra-structure of airports and provide efficient air transport to the passengers.

The authority's Five-Year plan of development would be submitted to the Planning Commission for integration with the sixth Five-Year plan of the country.

The Secretary General of Defence said besides having three new airports by the end of Five Year plan, 12 new airstrips would be laid or improved in the outlying areas at the cost of Rs. 20 crores. These would be used for operating feeder service to connect with the main airports.

He disclosed that Rs. 30 crores would be spent on improving the facilities of smaller airports. These include Quetta, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Sukkur and others. The Secretary General of Defence said Rs. 100 crore, Rs. 65 crore and Rs. 60 crore would be spent respectively for constructing new airports at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Work for the design of these air-

ports had begun.

Gen. Rahim said Rs. 400 crores was four times more than the amount sanctioned in the current Five-Year Plan ending next June.

He said that virtually nothing was done in the last Five Year Plan from 1973 to 1978 as only Rs. 24 crores had been reserved for the purpose.

He said the civil aviation department had been lagging behind and could not improve terminal and airport facilities due to financial, administrative and other constraints.

The PIA, he said, had been expanding its fleet to meet the demand of increasing number of passengers but the civil aviation department had not been able to keep abreast with it.

Maj. Gen. Rahim said the civil aviation authority would be given vast powers to improve the infrastructure of all airports.

It would be an autonomous body and governed by eight member-board of directors.

The Secretary General of Defence would be the chairman while the members would be the Vice-Chief of Air Staff, Secretary of Civil Aviation, Managing Director of PIA, Chairman of Banking Council and the Chief Executive of the authority whose designation will be of the Director General. He stated that Air Vice Marshal Khurshid Anwar Mirza had been appointed the Director General of the Civil Aviation authority.

All the 3000 employees of the Civil Aviation Department stood transferred to the newly created authority. Their terms and conditions of service had been fully safeguarded and it was likely that these would be further improved.

PAKISTAN-IRAN AGREEMENT SEEN AS STEP TO ISLAMIC COMMON MARKET

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec. 5: The Iranian Commerce Minister and leader of the visiting 22-member delegation, Habibollah Asghar Olladi, said here last night that Muslim countries should form an Islamic common market for the benefit of entire Muslim Ummah.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honour of the delegation by the President's Adviser on Foreign Trade and Chairman Export Promotion Bureau, Hamid D. Habib, the Iranian Commerce Minister said, Pakistan and Iran had already taken a step in this direction with the signing of the long-term agreement on trade and co-operation between the two countries.

He expressed the confidence that other Muslim countries would also join Pakistan and Iran with the passage of time and the concept of an Islamic common market would eventually materialise.

He said they had come to Pakistan to review the extent of implementation of the agreement and also explore new avenues of co-operation. So far the results were remarkably successful, he added.

During their visit to Pakistan, Mr. Olladi said, they found that great potential existed in the agriculture and industrial sectors which, he observed, was a source of great encouragement for Iran.

The Iranian Minister said with continuous negotiations the existing co-operation and brotherly relations would further strengthen. The main purpose of their visit to Pakistan, he said, was to help increase the existing level of imports to Iran.

Earlier welcoming the Iranian Commerce Minister and other members of the delegation, Hamid D.

Habib, said the visit of Iranian delegation would further consolidate the already existing "most cordial" relations between the two countries.

Mr. Habib in his speech said that Pakistan had always had best of relations with Iran but the fact was that since Islamic revolution, economic co-operation between the two countries had made tremendous strides and Pakistan was reciprocating Iranian efforts to accelerate this trend.

Since the signing of long-term trade agreement, Mr. Habib said, the memorandum of understanding of commercial relations and the banking and payments agreement between the two countries, economic co-operation had found firm roots and a legal framework trade was progressing more or less satisfactorily although many bottlenecks and obstacles-the legacy inherited from history-still remain to be swept away.

Referring to the difficulties faced in transport he said that unloading of wagons at Zahidan was reportedly taking longer than it should be. If an efficient system was installed at Zahidan, he said, movement of goods would become speedier.

The EPB Chairman said Pakistan Government had proposed a trucking agreement to lessen pressure on railways and which may be finalised as early as possible so that increased volume and speedier movement of cargo may become possible.

Earlier Mr. Olladi and members of the Iranian delegation also visited the Karachi shipyard and engineering works.

They were taken round the various facilities and workshops of the shipyard. They showed keen interest in the abilities and expertise in ship building.-APP

PAKISTAN-BRAZIL TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 5: Pakistan and Brazil have signed a General Good Will Type of Trade Agreement initially for three years, automatically extendable to equal and successive periods unless otherwise notified, to develop, extend and strengthen the commercial relations between the two countries.

According to the agreement, the two Governments shall accord the most-favoured-nation treatment to each other and encourage relevant enterprises and organisations of the respective countries to examine the scope for short and long term arrangements for the conclusion of mutually beneficial contracts.

Both the Governments will also facilitate the visits of businessmen, their delegations and the holding within their territories, of trade

fairs and exhibitions by enterprises and organisations of the other country.

The agreement, further, envisages the creation of a representative committee, to be designated by the respective Governments, with a mandate to meet in Brazil and Pakistan alternately, to review the implementation of the provision of the agreement and to recommend measures aimed at further expansion and diversification of trade between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Mr. Ramiro Saraiva Guerreir, Foreign Minister of Brazil and Mr. S.M.A. Khairi, Pakistan Ambassador to Brazil on November 18, 1982 at Brasilia on behalf of their respective Governments.-APP

CSO: 4200/216

GHAFFAR KHAN BLASTS POLITICIANS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Dec 82 pp 1, 8

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Dec. 2 Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Former Red Shirt leader, has accused the politicians of lacking sincerity "otherwise the shape of things would have been far different"

The veteran leader now in his 90s was talking to 'The Muslim' in Wali Bagh yesterday. He was in hospital for treatment and had been allowed to go home only a few days back. "Here I am feeling better and more comfortable", he said.

Being Khudai Khidmatgar, the Bacha Khan as he is popularly known, has no intention to indulge in politics and wants to keep out of it but "being a citizen of this country I can't help feeling the pinch over the state of affairs in the country". He said it was due to the vast division among the politicians that Martial Law had been imposed again and again. They, he said, failed to give the country a workable system a system which ensured a fair deal to all.

Bacha Khan said, even now political parties were distinctly divided in two camps. They are either pro-government or opposed of it. They are all moving in different directions and are not getting together. The old politician said, he failed to understand the existence of such parties which did

not want elections only because they had no following and could not win. The formation of parties without mass following, he said, was unthinkable and this showed that the political leadership had no common objective and this he added explained the failure to hold RTC. "It was very unfortunate, he said, that the politicians had been publicly insulted and even abused but they had pocketed it all only because they were not united.

The Bacha Khan was asked about the response to his offer to mediate in the Afghan situation and he replied that the Afghan Government had accepted his offer but there had been no response from the Pakistan Government. In case the latter too liked the idea he was prepared to go to Kabul and take up the threads. He said that about 60 to 70 Afghan leaders drawn from all the provinces had met him and appreciated his anxiety over the Afghan situation and its solution. When told that some other Afghan leaders had opposed his mediation offer because he had described the Afghan situation as a tussle between America and the Soviet Union, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, said "these leaders are more concerned about their allowances and have nothing to do with the masses. -

CSO: 4200/215

POLITICAL CLIMATE OF KARACHI DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Dec 82 p 4

[Article by Aey Aey]

[Text] SINCE the departure of Begum Bhutto abroad for treatment, a lull has taken over the political environment of the city.

The MRD and the Peoples Party have been particularly silent during this period. No press conference has been addressed, nor has any political statement been issued, although a number of private meetings and quiet luncheons have been heard of.

Prior to her departure, Begum Bhutto formed a 12-member steering committee to look after the party in her absence. The committee is comprised of at least two members from each province representing different factions of the party in that province. This has not only created a sense of participation of all the factions in the party affairs, but it has also pitted one against the other to prove their worth.

As a result, in Sind at least Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and his rivals Mumtaz Bhutto and Abdul Hafiz Peerzada are doing their best to organise the party.

The day after the Begum's departure, Mr. Jatoi went to Hyderabad for a meeting with the

workers, and Mr. Mumtaz and Mr. Peerzada met workers in Karachi. Mr. Mumtaz is now in Larkana, and Mr. Jatoi will be leaving on a long tour of the province very soon.

I do not know much about the other provinces, but according to party sources, in Baluchistan, Abdul Khaliq Khan and Yahya Bakhtiar, in NWFP, Aftab Sherpao and Nasirullah Khan Babar, and in Punjab, Shrikh Rafique and Shaikh Rashid will have to work hard to prove their bonafides before the workers and party chairman to retain their present status or they are doomed.

NOORANI

Among the maulanas of Pakistan, I have a great liking for Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani. This liking is not because of his religious supremacy or political acumen. It is his conversational qualities which attract me, and I think many of my friends in the profession will agree with me in this connection. The other quality which makes his press conferences and briefings crowded is his taste for good food, and the manner in which it is served.

His recent press conference, his first public appearance after

the failure of the much-publicised round table conference, was as lively as ever, without any trace of the gloom and dejection which usually overtakes politicians after a failure of this magnitude.

One thing which sometimes makes the Maulana very bitter, to the extent of becoming subjective in his approach, is Jamaat-e-Islami.

He never misses an opportunity to pass a stinging remark almost J.I. and its leaders. At one stage in the said Press conference describing the alleged collaboration of Jamaat with the government, he said, "Woh to hukumat ki dashta hai," (J.I. is the mistress of the government. Somebody quipped, "Aap bhi dashta banna pasand kerenge" Would you like to same role for yourself, "Mai to raqib hun" (I am the villain), pat came the reply.

With all due respect for the Maulana's views about J.I., I would request him to be more generous and forgiving towards it. After all, to err is human and to forgive Divine, and it's better if the Maulana chooses the Divine role for himself.

CSO: 4200/215

GOVERNMENT DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF PRESSURE ON PRESS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 82 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 30: Official sources have denied a press report about pressure being exerted on newspapers by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting or any of its departments.

The sources said that the allegation was completely baseless. On the other hand, the government, in order to help the newspaper industry, had allowed the concession of duty free import of newsprint by newspapers according to their requirements, a facility which was not enjoyed by other publishers. It was, however, regrettable that in some cases the government had noticed that serious malpractices had been committed and part of the duty free newsprint imported for newspapers had found its way into unauthorised hands. It may be added that the Government denial comes in response to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) resolution of Nov. 27. The resolution said "The Executive Committee notes with deep concern the increasing pressure being applied upon newspapers and periodicals throughout the country by the Press Information Department of the Government of Pakistan. It is the firm belief of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society that slashing of newsprint quotas and Government advertising schedules cannot be legitimately used to punish newspapers in their endeavour to present a full and fair coverage of the news to the reading public at large. Such pressure is being applied on most major national dailies and is a direct violation of the principles of truth and justice that must prevail in the goal of establishing an Islamic State." -APP

CSO: 4200/214

WALI CRITICIZES ISOLATING OF PROVINCES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Murtaza Malik]

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Dec. 1: Abdul Wali Khan, a leader of the defunct National Democratic Party, today said isolation of the provinces through sealing all avenues of national integration was not in the interests of the country and sooner this process was stopped the better.

The NDP leader in an interview with The Muslim at his Wali Bagh residence about 40 kilometres from here this afternoon said that restrictions on the inter-provincial movement of the national leaders and preventing them from going to the people particularly in the wake of a very sensitive border situation was a dangerous trend and the government must realise the consequences of such a segregation. He, however, pointed out that his party had never lost an opportunity to stand by the people of the other provinces whenever there had been an occasion. He recalled that the UDF role and the resignation of the NAP Government in NWFP as a protest against the dismissal of the government in Baluchistan were the two major instances in this context.

Abdul Wali Khan said that within a restricted and confined situation wherein the political process was not being allowed to make even a little headway, the MRD was playing an effective role for the restoration of democracy. Once again the lawyers were in the vanguard of this struggle.

Asked to comment on the impression that the components of the MRD lacked coordination, he said it was not an election alliance or a merger of the parties. It was an arrangement for a common goal of restoration of the democratic process. Once that had been achieved and elections held, the question of coordination and identification of views on vital national issues could be discussed.

Describing the present struggle as between the Government and the rest he elaborated that when he

said government it did include such parties as were not siding with the people. The political parties, he said, were either with the people or with the government and there was no other option for them. He hoped that the Armed Forces being a highly important national institution belonging to the people as a whole would remain above party politics and shall not align with any political school of thought.

Replying to a question the Khan emphasised that for a political and peaceful transfer of power the only course open was the democratic and constitutional methods otherwise nobody could predict the consequences of the illegal and unconstitutional course. He hoped that the government full realised this position.

Khan Wali Khan took strong exception to the way a political party believing in violence had been given a blank cheque to involve the Afghan refugees in Pakistan politics. He feared that the arms and resources of these refugees would be used by the said political party for her own motives and that would obviously be disastrous. He said that the liberty with which this party, the Pagara Muslim League and the Shoora Chairman and Ministers were holding conventions and public meetings all around conveyed the impression that there was no ban on the political activities. At the same time it had also exposed the discrimination between the political parties.

Wali Khan favoured a direct dialogue between Kabul and Islamabad to solve the Afghan problem. While talking of the Afghan situation, he said, that a recent statement by some Afghan refugee leader that they would not be bound by any agreement in which they were not a party was positive indicator to their design and called for a serious thought by all those treating them on purely humanitarian considerations.

MUSAWAT PARTY PLEDGES TO END PROVINCIAL DISPARITY

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 82 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec. 1: Acting President of defunct Musawat Party, Zamurrad Hussain, has expressed concern over "feelings to deprivation" on the part of smaller provinces in the state affairs and said that his party would not only strive to remove these feelings but would also make Punjab play its due role in this regard.

Addressing a Press conference here he said that his party had originated from the Punjab, thus it was easy for it to get the people of smaller provinces believe that the people of the biggest province too were with them in their struggle for democratic rights.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan he said that his party believed that "it is a genuine revolution". He said that his party supported the "revolution and wanted none to interfere in their internal affairs". Whether it is Soviet Union or any one else, interference in Afghanistan affairs is undesirable, he added.

Of his party leader Hanif Ramay, he said that he was expected to return from the United States in about three months time and then he would permanently stay in Pakistan.

To a question regarding MRD Zamurrad Hussain said that he did not believe in "hotch potch" alliances. Unity, he added, should be based on uniformity of ideas and beliefs and amalgamation of political parties having different viewpoints could also result in driving the goal of democracy still farther.

He also announced the provincial structure of his party, according to which Chaudhry Mohammad Farooq has been nominated as the Chairman whereas the offices of Secretary and Information Secretary go to Pervaiz Malik and Chaudhry Ghulam Sarwar respectively. The decisions were taken in the meeting of National Action Committee of defunct Musawwat Party, he concluded.-

CSO: 4200/214

RESENTMENT VOICED AGAINST IMF CONSTRAINTS

Karachi ECONOMIC REVIEW in English Nov 82 pp 5-7

[Text]

International Monetary Fund provides short-term loans to developing countries to overcome their balance of payments difficulties. The terms and conditions of such loans are not easy and do not provide any relief except ad hoc cure. But with march of time, the ad hoc cure prolongs the disease and makes it more serious. The Fund provides short-term credits often at a high interest rate of 12 per cent. Both the principal and the interest are to be paid in a short period and there is no grace period. According to some press reports, Pakistan has to pay to IMF during the calendar year 1982 no less than 300 million dollars.

The harshness of terms and conditions does not end here. Unlike other financial institutions which are contented with the Government guarantee to pay, the IMF wants economic, monetary and fiscal discipline. The Government fiscal and monetary policies should be according to IMF dictation. Pakistan has been subjected to such dictatorial directives whenever she approached the IMF even if the country was entitled to certain credits as a matter of principle. Some time back the International Monetary Fund agreed to provide \$ 1.2 billion to Pakistan to overcome her balance of payments difficulty and to finance a part of her development programme. However, under the agreement Pakistan was asked to meet certain conditions of the International Monetary Fund. Important of these were (i) to liberalise imports; (ii) indirectly devalue Pakistan national currency; (iii) to increase revenues from commercial services like transport, communications, irrigation water supplies, energy like gas and petroleum products; and (iv) to withdraw facilities like subsidy for food and fertilizer.

Pakistan met all these terms and conditions like a prudent borrower but the most judicious lender has not been satisfied with the way Pakistan has met her terms and conditions. It is now understood that a part of the credit facility, exactly \$ 660 million has been withheld. The reasons are not clear but one suspicion is that the IMF is really not of the 68 members but it is a white men's club and makes decisions according to the discretion of the inner cabinet.

This has been proved in one recent case. South Africa approached the IMF for a \$ 1.07 billion credit. The majority of the 68 members was against the credit facility on solid ground of human rights. However, the credit was allowed under the "weighted vote" system. The decision was dictated by the "General Whites-only Club" comprising the USA, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy.

Liberalization of imports and delinking of rupee from dollar without any impact on exports have caused deterioration of terms of trade. The dollar value of Pak rupee has declined by about 25% since January 1982 when it was delinked. Quarterly estimates of terms of trade, compiled by the Federal Bureau of Statistics are available upto the first quarter of 1982. These show almost constant deterioration since the middle of 1979. During April-June 1979, these were 127.14 per cent points. During April-June 1980, these were 105 per cent points, a year later April-June 1981 97.75 per cent points and during Jan-Mar, 1982 88.71 per cent points. The purchasing power of Pakistani merchandise declined during the last three years by more than 30 per cent.

Despite substantial decline in the purchasing power of Pakistani currency and merchandise, there has been no improvement in the balance of trade and payments. On the other hand there has been significant deterioration. In 1979-80, exports at Rs. 23.41 billion, could finance almost 50 per cent of imports valued at Rs. 46.93 billion. In 1981-82, the value of exports at slightly over Rs. 26 billion could finance only 44.4 per cent of imports. The current account gap, according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 1981-82 was \$ 1309 million during 1981-82 against \$ 991 million in 1980-81, \$ 1145 million in 1979-80 and \$ 1126 million in 1978-79.

Faced with constant balance of trade and balance of payments deficits, Pakistan has been forced to con-

tract official and private long-term loans and short-term credits. These have resulted not only in debt burden but also mounting debt service payments. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 1981-82, in 1974-75, 75 per cent of gross disbursements were received as net transfers (total aid disbursements (—) repayments). During 1981-82, these were hardly 35 per cent. This means that in 1981-82, the country contracted 65 per cent of loans and credits just to repay the old debts and interest on them.

This is despite the fact that some aid giving countries and agencies deferred repayment for short periods otherwise the situation should have been worse. However, the country has ultimately to pay all debts and default is against the basic characteristics of Pakistan. And these repayments with added interest charges would go up sharply. In a few years the country might be required to contract all loans and credits just to finance old debts.

These problems of trade deficits, heavy borrowings, and debt service payments have been created by the Market Economy developed countries which keep the International Monetary Fund under control. On the one hand they want the developing countries like Pakistan through the Fund to liberalise imports and discourage exports through increasing the cost of factors of production like energy, and basic raw materials and agricultural inputs and on the other discourage imports into their own countries from the developing countries through grouping into economic unions and free trade areas and protectionist policies.

The problems of developing countries with regard to balance of payments have been summed up by the World Bank in a few sentences, (in World Development Report 1982) viz. "Development prospects for the international economy have worsened over the past year. The list of reasons for pessimism is long; continuing recession in the industrial countries (which also heightens the threat of protectionist measures); the developing countries adverse terms of trade and depressed export volumes; high and more volatile interest rates that limit borrowing; and large debt repayment burden. If not soon overcome these barriers to growth could condemn the world to the sluggish growth".

The Western countries claim to be the champions of free trade but they are working against it. A free

trade led efforts could pull the industrial and developing countries out of the world-wide recession and unemployment.

The International Monetary Fund is very particular about the withdrawal of subsidies provided by the Government for distribution of wheat, chemical, fertilizer and insecticides and pesticides. Here, it may be pointed out that all industrial countries provide huge subsidies to their agriculture to keep the production up or even to depress it. The USA alone provides no less than \$ 60 billion — more than double the Gross National Product of Pakistan (at Rs. 315 million = \$ 25 billion) in 1981-82 to her farmers.

The results of withdrawal of subsidies from each commodity have been disastrous. The Wheat prices in the open market have increased by 80 per cent during the last three years. Other prices also have been affected by the rise in the prices of wheat. The situation of subsidies on fertilizer and insecticides is even worse. Indications are already there that unless subsidisation process is renewed agricultural production may decline. Prices of chemical fertilizer have been increased twice during 1982 alone. The rise in the prices fertilizer during 1982 has been more than 15 per cent. The price per bag of urea increased by Rs. 15 to Rs. 118, of DAP by Rs. 16. to Rs. 121, of N. Phos. by Rs. 13 to Rs.97, of A. Sulphate by Rs. 7 to Rs. 54, of A. Nitrate by Rs. 3 to Rs. 58 and S.S.P. by Rs. 4 to Rs. 29.

As a result of rise in the prices of fertilizer, its consumption has not only lost its growth witnessed during 1970's but even it has already started declining. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 1981-82, the offtake of fertilizer between 1975-76 and 1979-80 increased annually between 14.3 per cent and 29.4 per cent. In 1980-81 the growth of offtake slowed down to 3.35 per cent. The offtake during the first 9 months of 1981-82 actually declined by 1.07 per cent if compared to the same period of 1980-81. The situation may be worse during 1982-83.

Same is the case with plant protection services. Previously, the Government was subsidising plant protection operations. Now, the Government has withdrawn completely the subsidy for ground operations in the Punjab and Sind and abolition of free aerial operation services except in Baluchistan. As a result, the aerial operations have come down by 60 per cent from 1.32 million hectares in 1977-78 to 0.56 million hectares in 1981-82. Similarly ground operations dec-

lined from 2.62 million hectares in 1977-78 to 1.52 million hectares in 1980-81.

Due to increase in the tariff rates of electricity, gas and diesel oil the cost of manufacturing industries have increased. As a result, the exports of manufactured goods are losing their competitiveness in the international market and are not keeping pace with imports.

Are foreign loans and credits necessary? These are necessary because we are not saving much. The per capita income of Pakistan is sizeable, highest among the South Asian countries and even higher than China (Pakistan \$ 300, China \$ 290) but Pakistan's saving ratio is very low (Pakistan 6% of GDP, India 20%, China 30% and Sri Lanka 14%). To get rid of foreign debts and debt servicing and IMF is within our reach provided that we save and invest and work hard.

—Abdul Majeed Khan

CSO: 4200/219

ECONOMIC PICTURE OF STATE BANK DISCUSSED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Dec 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Negative Features of a Positive Year"]

[Text]

THE growth figures for Pakistan in 1981-82 are very impressive. The State Bank of Pakistan's annual report for the year says that Gross Domestic Product exceeded the Annual Development Plan target of 6.1 per cent and reached 6.3 per cent. And that compared too favourably with the growth in GDP of the non-oil developing countries in that year by 2.7 per cent and of the low income countries by 3.8 per cent. Gross National Product, too, rose by 5.6 per cent compared to the previous year's 5.1 per cent. Per capita income, however, recorded a very modest increase of 2.6 per cent because of the heavy increase in population, but even that was better than the preceding year's per capita income increase of only 2.1 per cent. The sector-wise production figures, too, are very impressive. If the commodity producing sector expanded by 7.1 per cent compared to 6.1 per cent in the previous year, the growth in the service sector was 5.4 per cent. The manufacturing sector recorded a growth rate of 12.1 per cent, says the State Bank report, compared to 9.9 per cent in the previous year, and large scale manufacturing increased by 14 per cent compared to 11 per cent in the preceding year. The small scale industries however, expanded by 7.3 per cent, as in the preceding year.

All that resulted in the gross investment increasing by 21.2 per cent compared to 11.7 per cent in the previous year and the gross fixed investment increasing by 17.5 per cent compared to 6 per cent in the preceding year. But why was it that while the public sector investment rose by 20.2 per cent, compared to only 1.5 per cent in the previous year, private sector investment dropped down from an increase of 15.1 per cent in 1980-81 to 12.6 per cent last year? Why has the increase in output all round and the increasing profit from the 14 per cent rise in large scale industrial production not spurred the private sector to invest more? If a good growth year for the country is not an excellent year for private sector investment as well, the omens for the future are not good. For a year of such an excellent growth rate, though diluted by the population growth, it has far too many negative features that are too disturbing. The external trade deficit rose by 24.5 per

cent to touch a record of 3,440 million dollars. The deficit was larger than the total exports of 2,319 billion dollars by 1,121 million dollars. And while the exports fell in that year by 17.2 per cent, imports rose by 3.5 per cent to establish a record of 5,759 million dollars. The rising imports were about 150 per cent more than the falling exports.

Inevitably, the country was left with a staggering balance of payments on the current account of 1.6 billion dollars, compared to one billion dollars in the previous year. If the deficit in the merchandise account rose by 24.5 per cent to 3.4 billion dollars the deficit in the services account rose by 5.2 per cent to reach the figure of 542 billion dollars. The home remittances of Pakistanis abroad, however, have helped to reduce that enormous deficit to the still very disturbing sum of 1.6 billion dollars. If as a result of such factors the growth of national savings dropped to 10 per cent from the 22.1 per cent of the preceding year, or the ratio of such savings to GNP came down to 11.5 per cent from 12.1 per cent in the preceding year, they are not surprising at all. As a result, the share of external resource in financing gross investment had to rise to 28 per cent from 20.6 per cent in the preceding year. Fall in national savings was inevitable when the budgetary deficit of the federal and provincial governments rose by 24 per cent over the budget estimates to Rs. 18.4 billion, compared to Rs. 14.6 in the preceding year. The government had then to resort to deficit financing to the extent of Rs. 5.4 billion compared to Rs. 2.4 billion in the preceding year.

A basic question that arises now is that if the government could not have control over its budget in reportedly a year of excellent growth and all round increase in production, and it cannot even stay within the budget deficits it had provided for, when could the finances of the country be husbanded better? And if the growth of national saving goes down even in such an exceptionally good year for growth when will the picture become really more encouraging? Contrary to the general belief the State Bank has reported a fall in the increase in consumer prices index to 11.5 per cent from the 13.9 per cent of the preceding year and in the wholesale price index to 9.7 per cent from 13.3 in the preceding year. The sensitive price index of 38 essential items (base year 1975-76) rose only 8.3 per cent compared to 15.3 per cent in the previous year. But how could the price situation have improved when the State Bank has simultaneously admitted increase in the prices of a large number of imported goods and administered prices of several commodities like petroleum and petroleum products, cement, power, gas, fertilisers, sugar, wheat and flour? This could have been helped to some extent by the fall in monetary expansion to 10.5 per cent from 14.1 per cent in the preceding year. But if the sharp increase in rents all round and the soaring transportation costs, too, are taken into account the rise in the cost of living should be far more than officially acknowledged.

Evidently the country cannot sit back and gloat over its growth figures. It has a vast range of deficit and disturbing economic trends to shake it up. Nor is the increasing reliance on external aid healthy or dependable in this uncertain international economic climate when some of the aid-giving countries themselves are in serious trouble. The country can neither afford staggering trade deficits nor alarming balance of pay-

ments deficits. Nor can the country permit such a low rate of national savings, and a rate of domestic savings which is as low as five per cent of the GDP and stands in the way of increasing private sector investment. In recent years the State Bank has given up openly warning the government in respect of disturbing economic trends, and has now chosen the path of making humble suggestions in a low key language. The number of suggestions made this time are quite many, and cover a vast area. Some of them relate to encouraging larger private investment. Others are designed to reduce imports and encourage large exports. Some are meant to promote large savings. But will the government respond to them and take effective measures? Growth figures are good, very good, but not as an end in themselves but as a beginning, if they are as good as claimed, towards achieving the real objectives of the society and reducing its poverty and miseries in a sustained and convincing manner.

CSO: 4200/215

LAHORE COMMENTARY DISCUSSES SPORTSWOMEN, PLO AMBASSADOR, MRD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 6

[Article by Kay Emm]

[Text]

ORIENTAL Sages did not consider women the weaker sex.

They were always apprehensive of women's latent capacity to fight back, to disarm for midable adversaries with a smile and their mastery of the art of winning an argument through patience and perseverance. Old books of wisdom were full of episodes which portrayed women as crafty tacticians of verbal contention.

Although one cannot doubt the sagacity of our elders, one, still wonders why our young ladies failed to persuade the Sports Board of Pakistan to let them participate in the 9th Asian Games. They were kept guessing till the hour the male sportsmen boarded the plane for New Delhi.

The poor girls were out manoeuvred comprehensively, and that too on their own wicket. They were forced to deviate from the path of their grannies and resort to piteous techniques of protest. Imagine their utter lack of prudence. Instead of saying Khuda Hafiz to their departing brothers with tears and best wishes, they held placards and shouted slogans at the Lahore Airport.

Perhaps these girls are naive. They have been unable to master the techniques which impressed the old sages. Perhaps they are too modern, making demands not compatible with the mood of the times. In any case, they have lost the battle of wits, and our good natured Minister for Sports has added insult to injury by proclaiming that women athletes were not sent to the Asian Games because of their sub-standard performance.

Kuwait sisters triumphed in horse-riding in a splendid feat.

They rode magnificently, but more spectacular than this clean sweep of all the medals was the fact they had come from a Third World Muslim country.

While the trio from Kuwait was being applauded, the veteran campaigner from Pakistan, Begum Parven Atif, needed sympathy and consolation. She had done her best to make up for the absence of our Sportswomen. She had won the first round—the electoral contest and had managed to get herself elected Vice President of the Asian Hockey Federation.

But her elation was short lived. She had to give a walk-over in the final round. Her credentials were challenged on moral grounds. She had no answer to the argument that officials without players had no legitimacy. Let us congratulate the lady for her graceful handling of an awkward situation.

The Women's Action Forum may well be advised to watch Amritsar T.V. regularly before they think of issuing a rejoinder to the honourable Minister of Sports. This exercise may appear to them futile or even unpatriotic, but it would certainly enable them to keep an eye on the performance of those who have fulfilled the eligibility requirements and also to keep an accurate count of their gold medals.

The 'Kim's Gun Show' is over. NCA was closed indefinitely, the hotels were vacated, and the protesters were ejected from their improvised headquarters. Normalcy has been restored as far as the District Magistrate is concerned.

But appearances are often deceptive, and underneath, simmerings can lead to violent eruptions.

PLO

The PLO ambassador to Pakistan

tan was the chief guest at a solidarity day function held at the Al-Hamra Arts Council. The auditorium was packed to capacity, and there were many more waiting outside. Even more heartening was the warmth and enthusiasm exhibited by the audience. Faiz made his first public appearance in Lahore after his return from his latest voyage. He was cheered lustily when he rose to recite his poems.

The PLO ambassador was accorded a rousing welcome. His speech was punctuated by familiar slogans of the Palestinian resistance. The crowd, mostly comprised of young and lively to radicals, got emotionally involved in the proceedings and was perhaps urging the Ambassador to dispel their fears of the possibility of capitulation by the PLO leadership.

Although the ambassador reiterated the PLO's determination to continue the struggle till victory, and clearly identified the friends and enemies of the Palestinian revolution, he did not indulge in firebrand oratory. He spoke like a seasoned diplomat. He was cautious and restrained in censuring the 'Brutus' of the Lebanon crisis.

Since the function was arranged in response to a U.N. call for observing Nov. 29th as a day of solidarity with the Palestinians, and a U.N. official (though of Arab origin) was also present, the PLO Ambassador primarily dwelt on the moral obligations of the world body to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people against continuous Israeli aggression and expansionism.

MRD

'Leadership by rotation' is not an innovation of the MRD, but the new style of leadership has been helpful to the opposition politicians in many ways. Expedience might have been the original motive, but considering their aspirations, their singular benefit is the wealth of experience they have gained in ensuring a smooth and peaceful 'transfer of power' every month.

A group of top MRD leaders were visiting Lahore recently. Ostensibly they were on a mass contact campaign, but before they could reach the masses, they were reached by long arms of the law-enforcing agencies. Since then, they have been detained at different places. But it seems that even this untimely intrusion has not impaired their vigour or enthusiasm.

MARTIAL LAW, EXTERMENT OF LEADERS CRITICIZED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 6

[Excerpt]

GUJRANWALA, Dec. 6: Leaders and workers of the MRD parties have expressed their surprise over the statement made Gen. Ziaul Haq that he would announce a political structure for the country on the eve of next Independence Day.

They said in a joint statement that Gen. Zia and his comrades should bear in mind that their Martial Law rule over the country was given sanction by the judiciary under a Roman jurisprudence dictum the Doctrine of Necessity, with the sole objective of holding impartial, fair, and just elections and transferring powers to the elected representatives of the people within the shortest period.

They said Gen. Ziaul Haq should abstain from announcing the cancellation of constitution of 1973. "The Constitution is the basic, essential and sacred law of the land which defines powers of the various organs of the state", they said.

They quoted a dictum from the Father of the Nation and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who on the eve of his visit to the Staff College, Quetta on Aug. 14, 1948 advised military officers, commanders and generals always to remain obedient and faithful to the representative government of Pakistan elected by the people of Pakistan.

They said the function and duty of the armed forces as defined by the Constitution of Pakistan was only to fight for the country and not to rule over it.

The signatories of this joint statement are advocate Suleman Khokhar, Secretary General Tehreek-i-Istiqlal Punjab; Sheikh

Bashir Ahmed, Senior Vice President Muslim League Punjab (K.K. group); advocate Pervais Saleh, Chairman Quomi-Mahaz-e-Azadi Punjab; Jamil Hassan Khan Manj, advocate, Dy. Secy. General PPP Punjab, advocate Malik Abdul Basit, member, executive committee, PPP Punjab; advocate Ghulam Rasool Sundhu, member, executive committee, Muslim League Punjab; Kausar Siddiqi and Urfan Ahmed of QMA.

PML

Muslim League leaders and workers Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Ghulam Rasool Sundhu, Rana Mohammad Shabbir and Khawaja Ejaz Mahashar have strongly condemned the exterment and interment of Khawaja Khairuddin, Mairaj Muhammad Khan, Khudai Noor and other leaders of MRD.

They said perhaps the present regime did not know it was only contact between the national leaders and the people of the country which could keep all the parts and provinces of the country united.

They said leaders like Khawaja Khairuddin, Mairaj Mohammad Khan and others struggling for the re. nation of democracy in the country were equally respected and followed in all parts and provinces of the fatherland. They termed their exterment from the Punjab an effort to disintegrate the federation of Pakistan.

They advised the Martial Law government to refrain from activities which were threats to the solidarity of the country and could damage the unity of the people of all four provinces.

They blamed the present regime of creating provincialism and hatred among the people of different provinces.

LAWYERS SAID TO BE FIGHTING FOR SUPREMACY OF LAW

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 6

[Text]

PESHAWAR, Dec. 6: The Vice-President NWFP High Court Bar Association Mian Mohammad Ashfaq has strongly deplored the statement of Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Secretary, Pakistan Bar Council and Mr. Maulvi of the Sind High Court wherein they had criticised the lawyers struggle for the restoration of peoples rights.

In a statement here on Sunday he said it was inconceivable that at this critical juncture when lawyers all over the country were engaged in a struggle to restore the supremacy of law, people among their own ranks could undermine their efforts. He described as baseless, malicious and devoid of sanity the allegation that the current struggle as it was timed was mala-fide, served the interests of the Soviet India lobby and harmed the clients.

He recalled that lawyers had started their historic struggle some three years ago and not now at a particular moment. They have held a number of conventions at various places and voiced their protest since then. They are proud of their historic role to remain in the forefront of the democratic movements in the country. Following their great predecessors the

founders of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the poet-philosopher Allama Mohammad Iqbal they are once again on the national scene. The basic objective of this struggle was not the vindication of any one person but to uphold the rule of law. They genuinely feel that PCO 1981 had harmed the process of law and amendments in the Bar Council Act were undemocratic.

How could the Soviet Indian lobby benefit if legal institutions enjoyed position of prestige in Pakistan, he asked. On the contrary they will be happy if the people of Pakistan remained helpless under the tyranny of black laws. That would be an ideal situation for the forces of evil to work in. Moreover lawyers did not intend to harm their clients in any way. It was the other way round. After all the clients were seeking a just process of law and that was what the lawyers were aiming at.

He appealed to the democratic people of Pakistan to stand by the legal profession in the present efforts. He also demanded the withdrawal of PCO 1981, restoration of 1973 constitution and repeal of amendments recently made in the Bar Council Act. He also demanded holding of general elections in the country without loss of any further time.

CSO: 4200/217

MRD TO PARTICIPATE IN LAWYERS' STRUGGLE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 6

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec. 6: The MRD leaders will participate in the movement of lawyers with all their might, if they were asked by the national co-ordination committee of the Bar Associations of Pakistan. This was stated by Khawaja Khairuddin, Secretary General of MRD who was released from detention yesterday along with Meiraj Mohammed Khan, Mr. Mumtaz Bhutto, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mohammed Musa Lashari.

He told newsmen here on Sunday that the MRD had already taken a decision in this regard and there was no question of backing out from it.

It may be recalled that Khawaja Khairuddin along with Meiraj Mohammad Khan and Qari Sher Afzal was detained in a rest house at Haleji Lake about 60 kilometres from here on Nov. 28 for 30 days. While Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mr. Mumtaz Bhutto were detained in their residences at

Karachi and Larkana respectively. The other detainees include Mr. Usman Bhudda, Mr. Mehfoozyar Khan and Mr. Rahim Baluch who have still not been freed. Qari Sher Afzal, a leader of JUI has also not been released and was transferred from Haleji Lake to Karachi Central Jail.

Meanwhile Mr. Mumtaz Bhutto after his release talking to newsmen in Larkana said that if there was a struggle involving him and the government it would not be a "noora kushti".

He said that arrest of political leaders would not solve the problem. If the ruling class wanted peace in the country then it should immediately hold elections under 1973 constitution.

About future programme he said, that the defunct PPP was the member of MRD and in the absence of Begum Bhutto, it will continue to follow the decisions of MRD.

He also demanded the release of all political prisoners including students and workers. Later, he left his home town Mirpur Bhutto where he would stay for a few days before coming to Karachi.

CSO: 4200/217

COMMENTARY ON LIFE IN JAIL

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 6

[Article by Aey Aey]

[Text]

THE silence which set in the political arena after Begum Bhutto's departure has been broken by the arrest and detentions of political leaders and workers in a drive launched by the police here recently.

Those arrested since Nov. 28 include Khawaja Khairuddin, Meiraj Mohammed Khan, Qari Sher Afzal, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mumtaz Bhutto and some others whose names need not be mentioned.

Imprisonment, detention and jail make a difference to these people only. To others, such as labourers, peasants and workers whether in jail or out, it means little. Some of them even find a better atmosphere and environment in jails, those in their clumsy and unhygienic dwellings in the slum areas. Fortunately or unfortunately, in our dear country jail is the only place where the basic necessities of life are guaranteed. Out of jail, as a free citizen, you find yourself, everywhere in chains.

So my congratulations to all those who have been put behind bars, or behind the iron gates of their own bungalows. To the former, because they need not worry about their daily bread so long they are there, and the latter because they will get a chance to rest up from the tiring round of lunches and dinners.

In this respect I find my fellow countrymen more patriotic than the Afghan refugees, for they prefer humiliation and imprisonment in their own country and by their own brethren than taking refuge in some other country for a better and more secure life.

NEGLECT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

Karachi ECONOMIC REVIEW in English Nov 82 pp 3-5

[Text]

Responsible quarters of the Government are showing anxiety about rural development. It has been recognised by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission that agriculture is still the backbone of the national economy. It has also been admitted that rural development has been neglected during the last three decades. Rural environments are not conducive to agricultural development and growth. About 75 per cent of the 45,000 villages of the country are without electricity. If electrified at the present rate of 1,000 villages per year, it would take 337 years to complete the village electrification programme. The rural road network in Pakistan is less than one fifth of the prescribed minimum of 0.64 kilometer of road per square kilometer of rural area. Only 20 per cent of the rural population has safe drinking water. Literacy ratio in rural areas is 14.3 per cent, male 22.6 per cent and female only 4.7 per cent. A large section of rural population is without medical facilities and only 1,000 out of 7,000 doctors of the public sector serve the 70 per cent of the country's population residing in rural areas.

Rural housing is a completely neglected aspect of rural social conditions. The Housing Census of Pakistan conducted in December 1980 by the Population Census Organisation of the Federal Government shows some alarming aspects of rural housing. More than 55 per cent of rural population lives in single room houses with an average of 5.9 persons per house. Another 28.8 per cent of rural population lives in two-room houses with average of 3.5 persons per room. Slightly over 16 per cent of rural population lives in houses with more than two rooms. The situation is not uniform throughout the country and varies from Province to Province.

Commercial aspect of housing is missing in rural areas and 83 per cent of population lives in owned houses, 15 per cent free and only two per cent on rent basis. The rents in villages are only a fraction of the urban rates. Thus there is very little incentive for constructing new houses or improving the condition of existing ones. The situation is worse in Baluchistan and Sind rural areas where only one per cent lives in rented houses. In the Punjab 2 per cent of rural population lives in rented houses and 6 per cent in the NWFP and Islamabad rural areas.

Most of the building material used in rural houses is inferior, non-durable and subject to erosion by wind, rain, floods and other natural calamities. The outer walls of 59 per cent of houses are made of unlaked bricks or just mud with finish, 3 per cent are made of wood and 8 per cent of unknown material, which most probably would be straw, grass and other such perishable materials. Another 25 per cent are made of laked bricks/stone with mud finish which cannot be considered durable. Only 5 per cent of the outer walls of rural houses are of baked bricks/concrete/stone with cement finish.

The situation with regard to roofs of the houses is still worse although roofs are essential for protection of human beings from heat, cold, wind, rains and other natural hazards. Only one per cent of the roof of rural houses are of R.C.C. or R.B.C., 85 per cent are of girder, beam, wood, baked bricks or such other materials and the material of 14 per cent is not known.

The life of such houses should be short and replacements should be more frequent than in urban centres, where the construction material used is more durable. According to the Housing Census, 20 per cent of houses are over 34 years of age, 35 per cent are between 11 years and 33 years, 25 per cent between five and 10 years and only 20 per cent less than four years. Such houses are frequently wasted away by rains and floods and in addition to human misery, household goods and even stored foodgrains and other agricultural product are lost. The improvement of rural houses is required not only to make the lives of farmers more comfortable but also to save him from economic losses.

Drinking water is an important necessity of the human beings and the standard of health, inter alia, depends on the cleanliness of drinking water. Drinking water is available inside 45 per cent of rural houses

and 55 per cent depend on water available outside the houses. Only 6 per cent — 3 per cent inside and 3 per cent outside the house get piped water. About 52 per cent of population gets water from hand pumps. Of 52 per cent, 37 per cent of pumps are located inside the house and 15 per cent outside the house. Wells provide water to 21 per cent of houses of which only 5 per cent are inside the house and 16 per cent outside. Rest of the 21 per cent of houses depend on other outside drinking water facilities which are somewhat painful. Of 21 per cent, 4 per cent get water from ponds, and 17 per cent from spring, river, stream or other sources. How far such water is clean and fit for human consumption is difficult to say.

There is an acute shortage of commercial fuels in rural areas. Some of the useful materials which could be used for better economical purposes is being burnt. Only one per cent of houses use kerosene oil, 79 per cent wood and 20 per cent cowdung. Wood could be saved for industrial purposes and cowdung for fertilizer. A programme for establishment of bio-gas energy plants has been launched. But so far only 1,000 units have been established as against 3 million units in China and 100,000 units in India.

Electricity is available to 15 per cent of rural housing for lighting which is cheapest and the most comfortable source of lighting. About 83 per cent of houses depend on kerosene oil which is the costliest. Another 3 per cent depend on other sources such as mustard oil. All these sources of fuel are very costly and efforts should be made to make available electricity to all villages to save kerosene oil, wood and dung as fuel. Elimination of kerosene oil as source of fuel and lighting should save considerable foreign exchange.

According to a definition of the United Nations, the "integrated rural development is the process of comprehensive development of the rural part of a society integrating rural areas and rural population into the rest of the national development strategy. This implies that (i) the involvement of rural population at the local and district level in decision making process; (ii) investment in human betterment such as health, education, nutrition, family planning, home economics and living environments; and (iii) integrating the measures (government services and farmers organisations) and implementing I.R.D. in a united programme by a local machinery as a functional organ at the village level." As it has been admitted that farmers life

should be reasonably happy and comfortable and the village has to be a livable place. But entire attention is concentrated on roads, education etc.

Except the hudgetary provisions, banks' allocations do not cover rural housing. Most of the bank credit provided to farmers is in small amounts and for short-term to purchase crop seeds, chemical fertilizers and insecticides. Medium term loans are provided for purchase of tractors and other agricultural machinery and implements. Major portion of the advances of the cooperative banks also goes for non-agricultural purposes or outside the rural areas.

At the end of the third quarter of the year 1976, for which latest figures are available, of the total advances of Rs. 397.6 million provided by the cooperative banks Rs. 161.7 per cent were for agriculture, forestry hunting and fishing. The share of agriculture as such comes to hardly 40.7 per cent. It is a well known fact that the entire concentration of House Building Finance Corporation is in cities and towns. Thus the rural people for building their houses and maintaining them depend on their own household savings which are meagre. House-building, in these days of dearness and inflation, needs capital which should come through commercial banks or other specialized agencies.

Unless rural environments are improved it has serious socio-economic implications. Bad environments affect production and productivity of agriculture adversely. Rural areas should be made worth living. The rural people as farmers, as industrialists or as shopkeepers should find all amenities of urban areas readily available to them. They should not be made to leave villages in search of employment or social amenities.

In some of the areas of Punjab, due to migration of labour to cities and towns and to foreign countries, there is shortage of agricultural labour. The cost of production of agricultural crops is increasing. Replantation of paddy in Gujranwala and Sheikhpura now costs six times the charges obtaining about five years ago. Any rise in agricultural cost of production causes inflationary pressure throughout the entire economy.

Migrating labour does not bring any new advantages to urban centres also. They need houses, drinking water, sanitation, health services and educational facilities. The demand for such services, due to demonstration effect, is far superior to those required in villages. The cost are high and there are crises in

educational, health and transportation services.

Migrating rural labour creates slums in urban centres as most of the migrants are poor and without capital. Such slums not only multiply sanitation and other social problems but also create administrative difficulties due to social frictions and industrial disputes.

The problem of rural environments particularly housing should receive serious attention of our planners and administrators. Sixth Plan is in the making and only seven months remain to be launched. The Federal and Provincial agencies and even research organisations should attend the question of rural environments and particularly housing carefully and adequate provision should be made in their plans.

Arrangements should be made for the supply of appropriate building materials for rural housing. Research should be conducted for selection of appropriate material. It should be cheap, easy to handle and according to climatic conditions. The commercial banks should pay attention to rural environments in their credit facilities. —*Abdul Majeed Khan*

CSO: 4200/219

ENIGMA OF SUGAR OVERSTOCK DISCUSSED

Karachi ECONOMIC REVIEW in English Nov 82 pp 7-9

[Text]

During 1981-82 season, 14.591 million metric tons of sugarcane was crushed and 1.268 million tons of sugar was obtained, at an average yield of 8.68 per cent. Additional 29,561 tons of sugar was made from beet and 2,197 tons from gur/khandsari. All in all, 1.3 million tons of sugar production set a new record of production. This made a substantial increase over last year output of 853,569 tons. Literally, sugar is bursting the available storage capacity, more so as new crushing season has already commenced. Conservative estimates of production of 1982-83 are at 1.1 million metric tons. Certainly the current crushing season would also yield production in excess of requirements which are estimated at 850,000 tons.

Possibility of exports of surplus sugar is remote. To keep sugar industry in good shape, it is desirable that surplus stocks, in excess of buffer needs, are systematically dissipated so that glut conditions could be averted and storage problems are methodically overcome. This is engaging attention of all concerned and several suggestions have been considered. One such measure had been disposal of stocks held by the Government, through tender bids.

Sugar policy 1981-82 laid emphasis on higher output, ignoring the problems created by surplus supplies. Cane prices were revised upward in desperation. Sugar policy 1981-82 did not contain a sound package governing supplies and distribution and prices as is evident from four tiers in each. Supplies emanated from growers' quotas, industry's free sales, in which first such flow came from NWFP, followed by the Punjab mills and in final count Sind mills. This policy of phased supplies, at times courting discrimination,

unwarrantedly caused transport of sugar from area to area. Had free supply policy permitted to all mills at one time, pressure on hauling and price variations in free sales would have been avoided.

Price pattern varied with the fluctuation of supplies. Two price tier of regulated supplies, rupees seven per kilo for domestic units and Rs. 10 for commercial establishments persisted longer than desired. In between these two the price pandulum of free sales quota had to swing. With free sales price lower than rationed price for commercial establishments, the latter outlets preferred purchases from free sales. Growers' quota of about 50,000 was first exhausted, followed by NWFP mills, (production in excess of 50,000 tons for them). Free sales of the Punjab and Sind mills was about 110,000 tons. Hoarding as alleged in press was on a steady rise in free sales prices was hoax, resulting from ignorance of price behaviour in predominantly regulated supplies and not so regulated demand. Since commercial establishments bought their requirements from free sales of industry, having price lower than their purchases through ration shops, the free sales quota had to be exhausted and the price thereof had virtually to come close to the fixed one by the government. Exactly this price behaviour was in evidence.

The industry could sell its free sale quota below government fixed price for commercial establishments, as most of such sales available was also free from payment of Central Excise Duty, being Rs. 2150 per ton, forming Rs. 2.15 per kilo. That had been cushion for sales by industry of its free market quota at lower than government fixed price. Thus four tier supplies and as many price levels presented government policy in this context as "half-baked and half-cooked". This clearly represents that the authorities while framing sugar policy had not expected such a sizeable production of sugar, breaking all previous records.

At present, surplus in hand from previous production is estimated at over four hundred thousand tons, while fresh production has started flowing. Authorities have expressed continuity of policy to promote higher sugarcane production, for which incentives are available both to the farmers and millowners. The government wants more sugar mills to be set up both in private and public sectors. Four mills in private sector are under construction. Certainly, sugar policy should be progressive. If it is to remain dynamic there is need

to get surplus stock exhausted. Keeping a small quantity for buffer stock for future eventuality.

Government has invited bids for sale of surplus stocks. Free quota of industry for the previous year has already been exhausted. Sales price of commercial establishments in Sind has been lowered to rupees nine per kilo and in the Punjab to Rs. 8.75! Free supplies from NWFP mills have started, since 40 per cent of mills located there is allowed for such supplies in current season. Minimum bid for purchase from surplus with the government has been fixed at 2000 tons.@ At a fair price of rupees eight to Rs. 8.30 per kilo, the prospective buyer has to arrange funds, minimum of Rs. 1.600 million to Rs. 1.660 million, to buy one block of 2000 tons, prescribed as minimum quantity to bid for. Who is going to have liquid funds to bid so daringly of own generated resources? Banks cannot finance sugar purchases by private parties. Ban remains on such financing. Only State can borrow from banks for financing sugar stocks. This restriction is a deterrent to free sales expected to generate from arrangements worked out. Restriction of financial private parties for sugar purchases had to go simultaneously with invitation to buying bids. With this check to persist, there is remote chance for private parties to come forward. If some bold person appears on the scene, will he be spared by income tax officials from enquiry into his resourcefulness? Who will buy the headache of forming a consortium of several parties to rescue government from the crisis and get the sugar surplus disposed off? It is wild idea to think positive in this regard. Free flow of sugar is not feasible unless restrictions on financing of sugar purchases by local parties are removed. Surplus sugar can get proper outlet when its free flow in normal conditions of financing is permitted. The present policy package is hindering free flow of sugar to quarters needing it badly. Per capita consumption of sugar in Pakistan is considerably lower when compared with several countries. Increase in it has to be steady and not bumpy, as had been in the past. Normal conditions are to be maintained by steady increase in production and corresponding consumption. The present problem of excess inventory can be handled by rendering financing free to private sector parties intending to purchase sugar from surplus stocks with the government.—Umer

@ now reduced to 100 tonnes which appears a rescue after much destruction.

FLOGGING OF WOMEN IN PESHAWAR REPORTED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Dec 82 p 14

[Text]

PESHAWAR
PAKISTAN

Tuesday

At least four women have been flogged in the past few months in jail at this capital town of Pakistan's North-West frontier province under the country's Islamic law against sexual relations out of wedlock, jail sources said today.

The sources said the latest flogging took place last Thursday when a 24-year-old married woman Mehro Jana, was flogged 10 times by a jail official.

The flogging was watched by about 200 woman prisoners, the sources said.

Mehro Jana, whose husband was identified as Mohammad Zafar, was sentenced by an Islamic court

to 10 lashes and five years prison for having sexual relations with another man. Tor Mohammad, who was also sentenced to 15 lashes and seven years in prison.

The sentences were confirmed last month by the Federal Shariat court the country's highest Islamic court.

Jail sources said Tor Mohammad was lodged in another jail and the date for his flogging was yet to be fixed.

Pakistani press reports said another woman, Jamiya, said to be a mother of several children, was awaiting the administration of 20 lashes for a similar conviction in a jail in Swat District of the Frontier Province. —

CSO: 4200/219

BRIEFS

TI TO DISCUSS SITUATION--LAHORE, Dec. 5--The Central Working Committee of the defunct Tehrik-e-Istiqal is expected to meet any day between Dec. 20 and 25 at Peshawar or Quetta to discuss the political situation in the country. The meeting is also expected to consider matters relating to Messrs Nafees Siddiqi, Muhammad Younas Khan and Humayun Gohar. Nafees Siddiqi has been expelled by the acting chairman from the party. Mohammad Younas Khan has been served with a show cause notice whereas Humayun Gohar has been removed from office. In the meantime Mr. Nafees Siddiqi soon after his arrival here this evening called on Mian Mahmood Ali Kasuri, Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan and Begum Mehnaz Rafi apparently to plead his case in the Central Committee meeting. However Mr. Nafees Siddiqi told newsmen that unless a decision is taken by the Central Working Committee he still considered himself as a member and office-bearer of the defunct Tehrik. He dispelled the impression that he was joining the defunct Peoples Party or any other political organisation and added that he was and would continue to remain in Tehrik-e-Istiqal. He, however, called for the immediate convening of the Central Working Committee meeting. Mr. Siddiqi is also scheduled to visit Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Multan in the same connection. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8]

TUFAIL DEMANDS POLITICIANS' RELEASE--LAHORE, Dec. 5--While welcoming release of political leaders like Khawaja Khairuddin, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mumtaz Bhutto, Meraj Mohammad Khan and Qari Sher Afzal, Amir of the defunct Jammat-e-Islami Mian Tufail Mohammad, has suggested the Government to "take another step forward" and release Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan to further harmonise the atmosphere in the country. In a Press statement Mian Tufail Mohammad said here today that "patriotism of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Asghar Khan is above board" and people could never doubt their love for the country. He was of the opinion that "undue" and "extraordinary" long detention of these leaders was no good and such actions always go against governments. Mian Tufail also demanded immediate release of all political workers lawyers and others who had been convicted by military courts as, according to him, it would enhance the chances of success of President's visit to the United States. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8]

JATOI ON MRD'S GOALS--KARACHI, Dec. 5--Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi Chairman of the defunct PPP Sind has said that his party along with MRD will fight toot and nail for the restoration of democracy in the country. Talking to newsmen

here this evening, he said, the only way for a compromise with the government was restoration of democracy and holding off elections under the 1973 Constitution and the rules therein. He said he could not understand the reasons for the arrest as well as the release of political leaders including himself in such a haste. No political party in Pakistan including PPP, he said, had bitter relations with USA. Mr. Jatoi said any agreement or commitment made by Gen. Zia with United States would not be acceptable to the people of Pakistan. "He has no right to sign any agreement on behalf of the people of Pakistan as he has no representative character". Replying to a question, the PPP leaders said he had no knowledge about any invitation by the US Government to Begum Bhutto. Replying to another question Mr. Jatoi said, his party was all out to support the lawyers in their movement. 'We are at their disposal because their fight had now developed into the fight and struggle for the nation.' [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Dec 82 p 8]

ARMS HAUL IN KOHAT--PESHAWAR, Dec. 4--A large consignment of smuggled arms and ammunition including a mortar, the biggest ever seizure of the kind, was captured by the Kohat police on Friday from the Mahsuds and Wazirs carrying it from Darra Adam Khel to Miranshah. Besides eightyone MM mortar guns the cache included two sten guns, two French type rifles, one GG3 rifle, 8 shot guns, 15 303 rifles, 5 7MM rifles and 137 pistols. A total of 385 dynamites and ammunition used in different weapons were also recovered. All the 14 persons involved in the racket have been arrested. The accused had earlier opened fire on the police party which continued for quite sometime when additional police force joined the operation using gas grenades. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Dec 82 p 1]

'TAMEER' ISLAMABAD BUREAU OFFICE--ISLAMABAD, Dec. 6--The Chairman CDA Syed Ali Nawaz Gardezi, while inaugurating the bureau office of the Daily Tameer here this afternoon said that it is delighting taht the office of this newspaper, which is the oldest paper of this region, is being opened in Islamabad. He said "I know that Tameer had to face a number of difficulties, but it stood by its principle of writing the facts relating to country and national issues". He said he hoped that this paper would not only keep us aware of peoples' problems but it would maintain the standard of journalism regarding national issues. Mr. Gardezi congratulated the editor of Tameer Bashir-ul-Islam Usmani, Bureau Chief Mian Akhtar Hussain and the staff of the newspaper on establishing the bureau office at Islamabad and prayed for its success. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 3]

ON RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES--LAHORE, Dec.. 6--The Secretary General of the defunct Pakistan Democratic Party has refuted the allegation that detained politicians were opposed to Pakistan's friendly relations with America. At a press conference here today, Rana Zafarullah Khan highlighted the efforts of the detained leaders in improving Pakistan's relations with the United States in support of his claim. He said the defence treaty between Pakistan and the USA was the result of the efforts of the Nizam Islam Party, a component of the NDP and disclosed that Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, President NDP had proposed a defence treaty with USA, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

MUSLIM LEAGUE CONFIDENT--KARACHI, Dec. 6--Kanwar Qutubuddin chief organiser of Pakistan Muslim League, (Pagara group), has said his party did not believe in transfer of power. Instead he said his party wanted surrender of power and the situation in the country was leading towards that end. Addressing a press conference here at his residence today he said that the party chief Pir Saheb Pagara was right in saying that now the power would come to PML. Enumerating the reasons for this he said, that after 1956 for the first time today the PML stood united and, therefore, was the largest party. Secondly the people of Pakistan were desperate and as a Pakistani Muslim when they look for a political party they only find PML satisfactory to their requirements. The other parties are either regional groupings, not conducive to the purposes and objectives for which Pakistan was created. The third and the most convincing reason for this assessment according to him, is that a leader of Pir Saheb's stature was leading the party. He said that the Pir Saheb could see five years ahead," whatever he said about the elections five years ago had proved correct beyond doubt and that has won him credibility among the masses." He observed that there could be no ban on PML because whatever its activities in the country, are in accordance with the tenets of Islam. So far other political parties were concerned he demanded the ban to be lifted from them, "because ban on political parties intensifies the underground activities which is dangerous for the country." He said that his party wants elections to be held under the supervision of a political government and only for this purpose the demand for political government has been made by his party. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

STUDENTS TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE--LAHORE, Dec. 6--The Students Guild of National College of Arts has urged that the government should accept their demands and restore educational activities in the college. In a statement issued here today Imran Poshī, Social Secretary of the Guild condemned those elements who were trying to harrass the male and female students of the college to accept their point of view. He said despite all such intrigues students would continue their struggle till the acceptance of their demand. Mr. Poshī thanked all students bodies who had morally supported them in the hour of their struggle. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

JAMAAT FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION--LAHORE, Dec. 6--Chaudhary Rehmat Elahi, Naib Amir of defunct Jamaat-e-Islami, has said that apprehensions of certain political leaders tht holding of elections under the system of proportionate representation would create a sense of deprivation in the smaller provinces were baseless. In fact this system was the best for national integration and for holding fair elections, he said. In a press statement issued here today Chaudhry Rehmat Elahi said that to adopt this system there was no need of making amendment in the 1973 constitution. He said the the postponed elections of 1979 were announced to be held under this system and no political party had raised any objection. He said his party was of the view that rights of smaller provinces could be fully safeguarded under the proposed P.R. system. He appealed to those who opposed the holding of elections under this system to go through articles 51 and 222 of the Constitution of 1973 which stated that rules would be framed for holding direct and independent elections for 200 seats of national assembly. Adoption of P.R. system was not negation of any article of the constitution, he concluded. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

PUNJAB TO HELP REFUGEES--LAHORE, Dec. 6--Ways and means to accommodate some of the Afghan refugees in the Punjab province were discussed at a meeting presided over by the Punjab Governor, Lt. Gen. Ghulam Jilani Khan at the governor's house here today. Gerald Walzer, chief of the mission of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, was present in the meeting which was also attended by the Punjab Chief Secretary, secretaries Home, Communication and Works departments, I.G. Police, Commissioner, Sargodha Division, and Col. A.M. Babar, Federal Joint secretary. The Governor assured Mr. Walzer that all possible assistance would be provided to the refugees by the Punjab government according to its resources. The meeting decided that the refugees would be accommodated in Tehsil Isakhel and necessary facilities in this connection are being arranged. Gerald Walzer appreciated the efforts of the Punjab government and was satisfied with the arrangements being made by various departments to receive refugees from Afghanistan. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

BIZENJO ARRESTED, RELEASED--QUETTA, Dec. 4--President of the defunct Pakistan National Party Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bazenjo was arrested at Sibi yesterday on the charge of taking part in political activities. He was taken to Khuzdar from Sibi and was released there later on. According to P.N.P. sources his activities have been restricted within the limits of Khuzdar district by the provincial government. It may be mentioned here that Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bazenjo was on a tour to Sibi Naseerabad and Katchi districts since last one week. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Dec 82 p 1]

ADMIRERS VISIT BEGUM BHUTTO--LONDON, DEC. 6--A number of friends, admirers and Peoples Party workers who are in England have visited Munich to see Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto who recently underwent medical check up against suspected lung cancer. The workers, some of whom are involved in criminal cases, and had made their escape from Pakistan have different stories to tell about Mrs. Bhutto's illness. While some of them felt Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto had grown weak but was not so well as her doctors in Pakistan had claimed and she herself had propagated before she was allowed permission by the Pakistan government. Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto instead of worrying about her health and treatment is all time busy in issuing statements and giving interviews to the foreign Press during which she criticised the present government in Pakistan. Contrary to her promises that her visit will be entirely for treatment, she has hardly missed a day when she did not come in contact with her party workers and the Press. The weakness of Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, according to the PPP workers could be due to the absence of her two sons who are still in Kabul but have not yet been given visas by the West German government to see their mother. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 82 p 8]

LEADERS' PHONES CUT--KARACHI, Nov. 30--The telephones of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mumtaz Bhutto have been disconnected after their internment. The telephone of Miss Benazir Bhutto continues to work. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 82 p 1]

MESSAGE TO WALI DENIED--PESHAWAR, Nov. 30--Provincial President of the defunct PPP, Aftab Sherpao, has categorically refuted the claim that Begum Nusrat Bhutto had sent any message to Abdul Wali Khan through Khawaja Khairuddin. In a statement here today he said that NDP President Sardar Sher Baz

Mazari had met Begum Bhutto before she left for treatment abroad and had there been anything to convey it would have been conveyed to Sardar Mazari who being the president of the NDP was the more proper person. HE added that the Khwaja during his recent visit to Pehsawar had met the MRD leaders and discussed organisational matters. He also met a couple of other leaders. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 82 p 1]

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF DISCRIMINATION--PESHAWAR, Nov. 30--Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Vice President of the defunct NDP, has accused the government of having drawn a distinct line between the parties of its like and dislike and as a result of this vast discrimination was being observed in the authorities treatment of various parties. In a statement here today, she added that because of the varying yardsticks the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Muslim League were at liberty to hold public meetings in spite of restrictions on political activities, while others had been completely debarred even from inter-provincial movement. She said that the policy-making had perhaps been entrusted to the Jamaat-e-Islami and it was implemented by the government. The Jamaat, she said was already creating difficulties for the government by involving the Afghan refugees in Pakistan's national politics and it would not mind adding to these difficulties. Begum Nasim Wali said that the detention and restrictions on movement of the political leaders deserved to be condemned strongly. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 82 p 8]

LEADERS' WIVES REFUSED VISITATION--KARACHI, Dec. 1--Wives of Khawaja Khairuddin and Meiraj Mohammed Khan have been refused permission to see their detained husbands by the provincial Home Department. It may be recalled that both the ladies had applied for permission to meet their husbands, who have been detained in a rest house at Thatta since November 28, under Section 5 of Maintenance of Public Order ordinance and were whisked away by the police from the airport after being sent from Lahore by a PIA flight under an externment order of the Government of Punjab. The reason for rejecting the applications could not be known as the Home Secretary could not be contacted by this correspondent. The telephone of Khawaja Khairuddin was out of order this evening and Mr. Meiraj does not have a telephone at his resident. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 82 p 1]

STUDENTS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM--RAWALPINDI, Dec. 3--Pakistan Muslim Students Federation will commence a week long 'Tehrik Adam Tashadud' (anti-terrorism campaign) from tomorrow in the educational institutions such as colleges and universities of Punjab to promote harmony and understanding amongst the students. During the campaign peaceful meetings of students will be held in which the speakers will stress the need for promoting unity and brotherhood amongst students. President of the federation Riaz Fatiana told a Press conference here this afternoon, owing to a rapid increase in acts of organized terrorism in educational institutions over the recent past, such a campaign was highly essential. He expressed his concern over such circumstances and demanded that persons responsible must be checked. On this occasion, he also demanded that National College of Arts (NCA) which was closed recently should be reopened so that students could carry on with their studies. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Dec 82 p 3]

ANTI-WATERLOGGING PLANS--LARKANA, Dec. 3--To end the menace of waterlogging and salinity in Upper Sind WAPDA SCRAP have finalised a scheme costing Rs. 457 crores. According to the scheme Rs. 12.06 crores will be spent for out-fall drain on the left bank of river Indus and Rs. 13 crore each for the East Khairpur Drain and South Rohri Scheme while remaining funds will be utilised on other schemes. A WAPDA source disclosed that World Bank has agreed to provide Rs. 26 thousand millions to eliminate the menace of waterlogging and salinity from Sind province and for this a detailed scheme has been prepared. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Dec 82 p 6]

SIND COPPER DEPOSITS--Tando Adam, 9 Dec (PPA)--At Bani Kot in Sind Province, vast deposits of copper have been discovered. This was revealed by Aziz Ashrafi, director of the Mines and Industries Department. He said that the government is presently negotiating with Japan and Yugoslavia and some other countries to exploit these deposits. Aziz Ashrafi said that Sind Province has vast natural resources and the government is showing a strong interest in discovery and development of these resources. He said that the copper deposits at Bani Kot can earn millions in foreign exchange. Aziz Ashrafi said that in Thar Parkar precious stones have been discovered which are in demand all over the world. [Text] [GF220900 Lahore JANG in Urdu 10 Dec 82 p 1]

AIR CHIEF ON F-16--Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim has said that F-16 aircraft purchased by Pakistan from the United States are identical to those being used by the U.S. Air Force. Addressing officers and airmen while visiting the Sargodha air field today, he said Pakistan is acquiring aircraft of the same quality for which it negotiated. He said these aircraft will be flown to Pakistan by Pakistani pilots in the middle of next month. [Text] [BK220024 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 82]

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